

"قالوا سبحانك لا علم لنا إلا ما علمتنا"



الله

# Vision and Mission

- The program aims to provide a high-quality education in petroleum geology and to produce professional graduates for successful, social, and ethical responsible careers in the petroleum industry and who are capable of confronting the needs and expectations of oil and gas industries and stakeholders.
- The APGP is dedicated to serve the regional and national demands for well prepared graduates who are highly valued by employers and the community, and who are qualified to pursue advanced degrees.

# Reservoir Sedimentology I

**Prof. Mohamad Nasser Shaaban**

1

*Geology Department, Faculty of Science  
Alexandria University, Egypt*



# Reservoir Sedimentology

## 1. Clastic Reservoirs

### Reservoir Sedimentology





**What do you expect to learn**  
**What do you expect to learn**  
**from this course?**

# Aim of the Course

- To explain the concept of clastic hydrocarbon reservoir characterization.
- To discuss the fundamental sedimentological processes that govern the spatial and temporal variability of the different clastic sedimentary rocks (*i.e. to study the nature, characters, fabric elements, depositional environments, modeling of clastic sedimentary rocks*) in order to have better insight into reservoir characteristics.
- To evaluate the parameters (*e.g. porosity and permeability*) that control reservoir quality and to discuss how these parameters vary spatially and with burial, due to depositional facies variability and diagenetic processes.
- To facilitate the professional development of the student.

# What the course is about?

## 1. Introduction and Definitions

## 2. Factors controlling the production of clastic sediments and sedimentary rocks

*(Weathering, Erosion, Transportation, Deposition and depositional environments, Diagenesis)*

## 3. Clastic Reservoir Properties

- *Sedimentary structures and textures*
- *The impact of clastic textures and fabrics on reservoir characterization*
- *Petrographic types of clastic reservoir rocks*
- *How clastic reservoir properties are affected by diagenesis?*

## 4. Clastic Reservoir Development and Morphology

- *Clastic facies and facies analysis*
- *Clastic depositional environments*
- *The concept of sequence stratigraphy and how it is used in clastic reservoir characterization*





# Introduction

It is the branch of science that study everything about the earth on which we live; for instance:

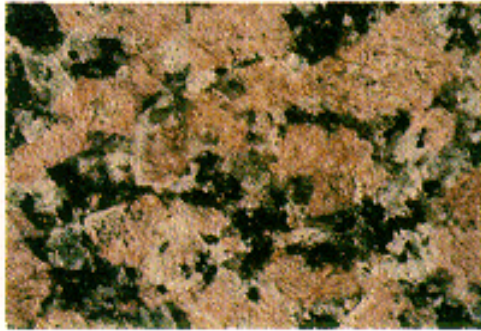
- ✓ The internal processes within the earth,
- ✓ The external processes surrounding the earth and the interaction between the four spheres (litho, hydro, bio & atmosphere),
- ✓ The earth's materials and natural resources

# What is Geology?



Before Starting You Have to know that there are three types of rocks that constitute the Earth's Lithosphere: their classification is based on their origin

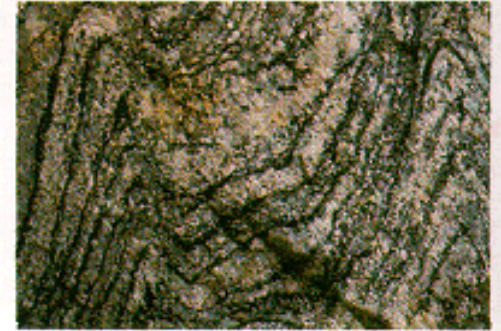
## IGNEOUS



## SEDIMENTARY



## METAMORPHIC



*Source of material*

Molten materials in deep crust and upper mantle

Weathering and erosion of rocks exposed at surface

Rocks under high temperatures and pressures in deep crust

*Rock-forming process*

Crystallization  
(Solidification of melt)

Sedimentation, burial and lithification

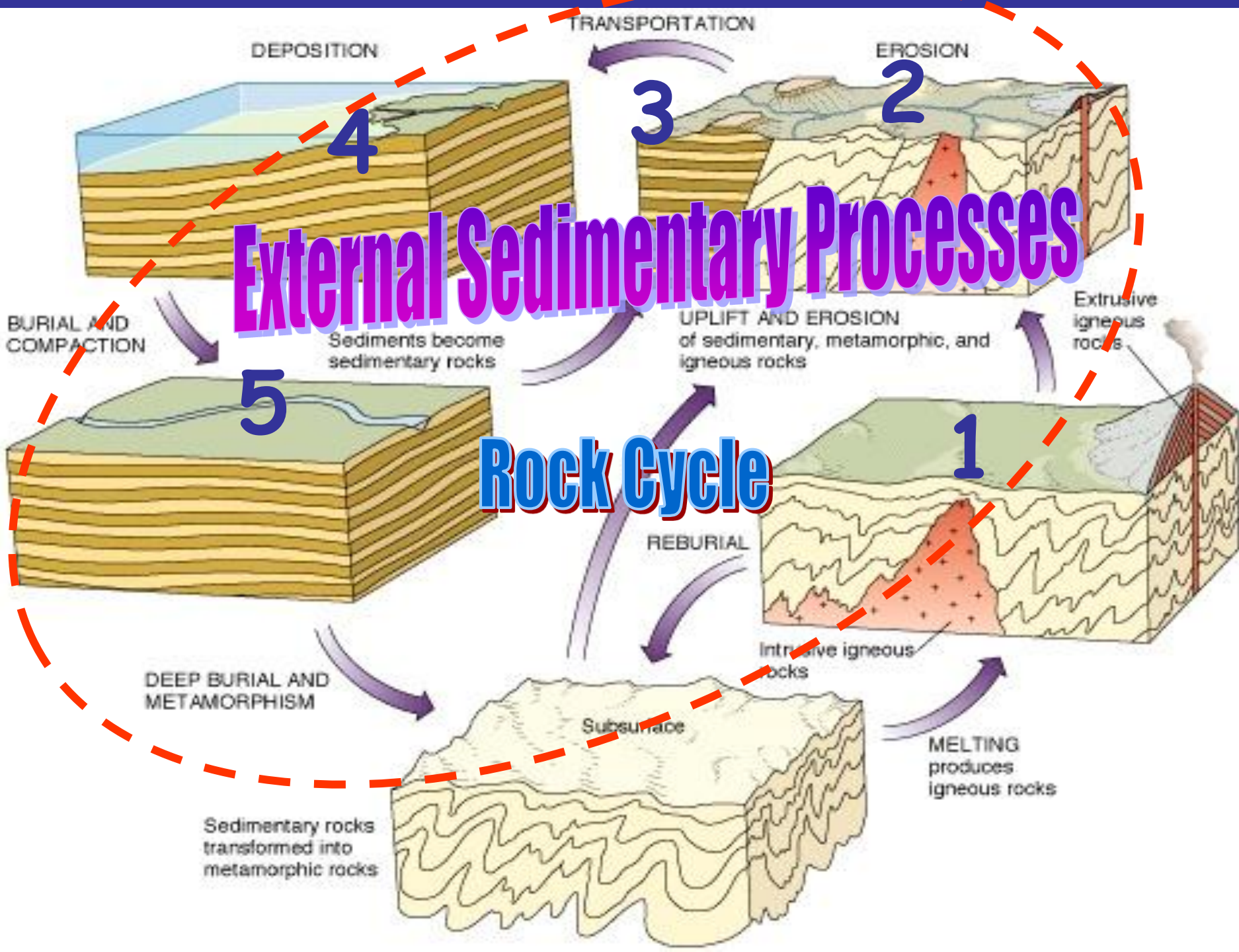
Recrystallization due to heat, pressure, or chemically active fluids

**Sedimentary rocks are the most important as related to hydrocarbon industry**

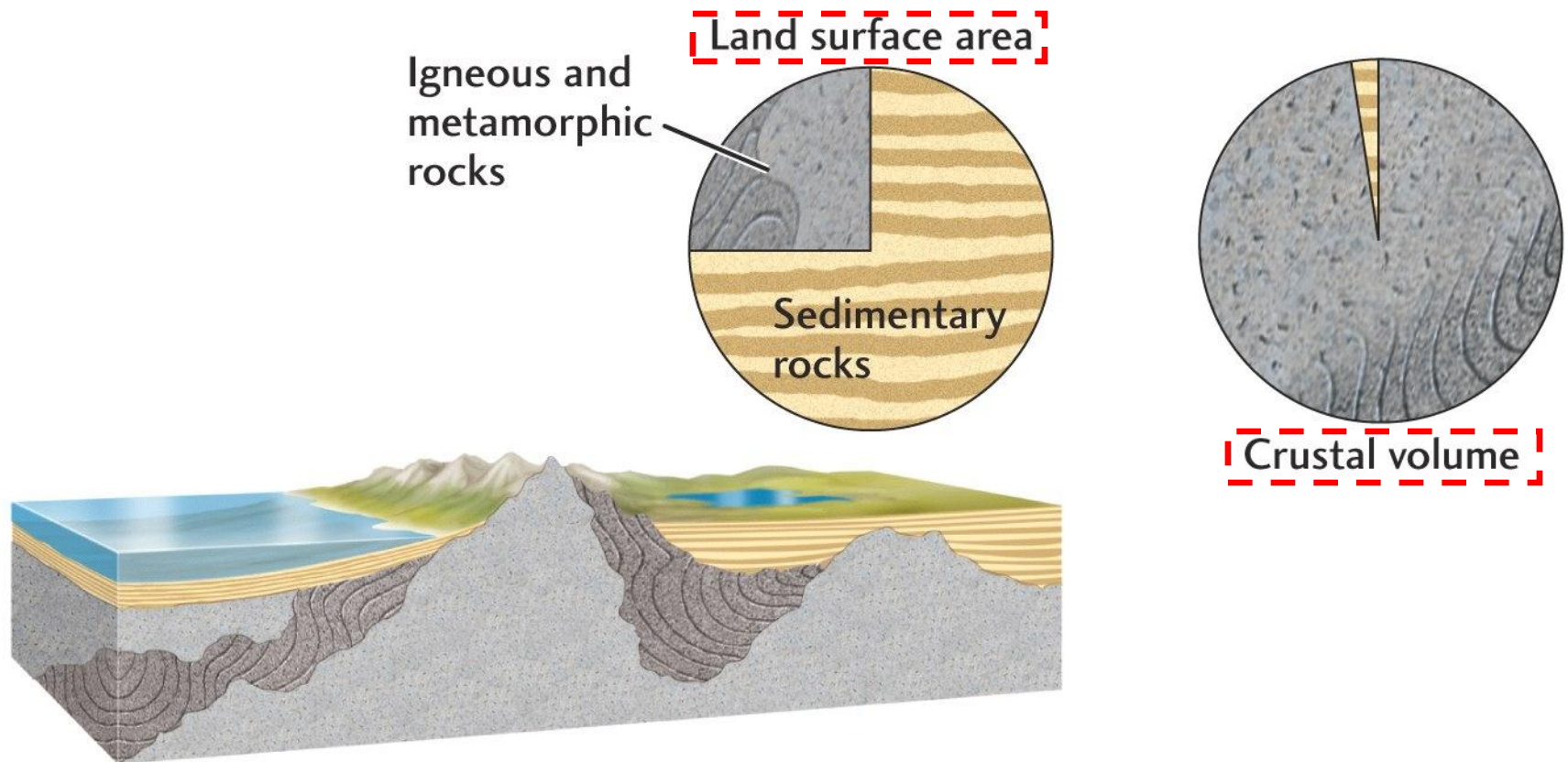


# External Sedimentary Processes

## Rock Cycle



# Proportions of Rock Types on the Earth



**Igneous & metamorphic rocks = crystalline rocks**



An aerial photograph of a coastline. The left side of the image shows deep blue water with some lighter blue patches indicating shallower areas or sandbars. The right side shows a rugged, rocky shoreline with various shades of brown, tan, and green, possibly due to vegetation or mineral deposits. The text is overlaid on the water side of the image.

# **SEDIMENTOLOGY OF CLASTIC RESERVOIRS**



# What is Sedimentology?

- It is the branch of science which deals with:

1.sediments,

2.sedimentary deposits

3.sedimentation processes,

and

4.sedimentary rocks.



# 1. Sediments

# What are sediments?

- Sediments are Loose solid particles (grains)
- derived from the physical and chemical weathering of preexisting rocks
- formed at/ or near earth surface under low temperature and pressure .





# Sediments may be either:

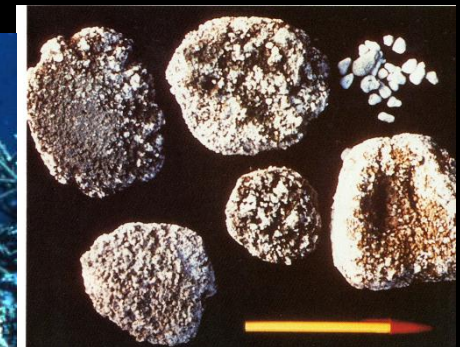
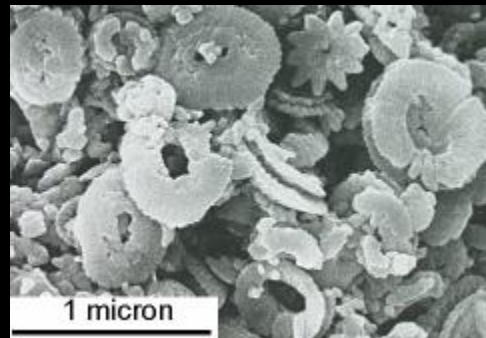
1. A fragment of a rock or mineral,

2. Crystals which precipitate directly from water,

3. Shells of marine organisms

4. Chemically or bio-chemically formed particles

5. Reef



## 2. Sedimentary Deposit

The background of the slide is a composite image. The left side features a deep blue, slightly textured background that resembles the surface of the ocean or a deep-sea environment. The right side shows a detailed view of a rocky seabed covered in various types of coral and marine life, with some areas appearing more brightly lit than others.



# What is a sedimentary deposit?

- It is a body of solid materials (sediments)
- accumulated at/or near surface of the earth
- within a specific sedimentary environment.



Is this a sedimentary deposit?



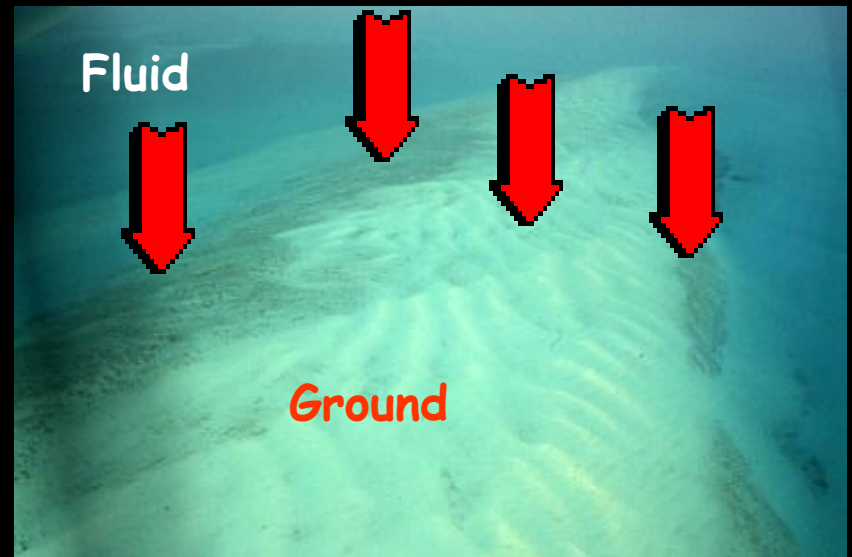


# 3. Sedimentation

An underwater photograph showing a coral reef on the right side, with various colorful corals and marine life. A large, billowing plume of fine, light-colored sediment or sand is visible in the center and left, rising from the reef area. The water is a deep blue, and the overall scene illustrates the process of sedimentation in a marine environment.

# What is sedimentation?

- It is the act of accumulation (falling down) of sediments onto a surface or ground under the influence of certain forces (e.g. gravity, turbidity currents,...)



The formation of modern sand dunes is a kind of sedimentation





When sand dunes become consolidated with time, *a process called diagenesis or lithification*, they form "Sandstones"



*Dune Sandstones*

# 4. Sedimentary Rock

The background of the slide is a composite image. The left side features a deep blue, slightly textured background that resembles water or a sky. The right side shows a detailed view of a rocky seabed covered in various types of coral and marine life, with some areas appearing lighter and more textured than others.

Before we define a  
sedimentary rock we have  
first to revise back the  
principal meaning of a rock  
in its general sense



# What is a Rock?

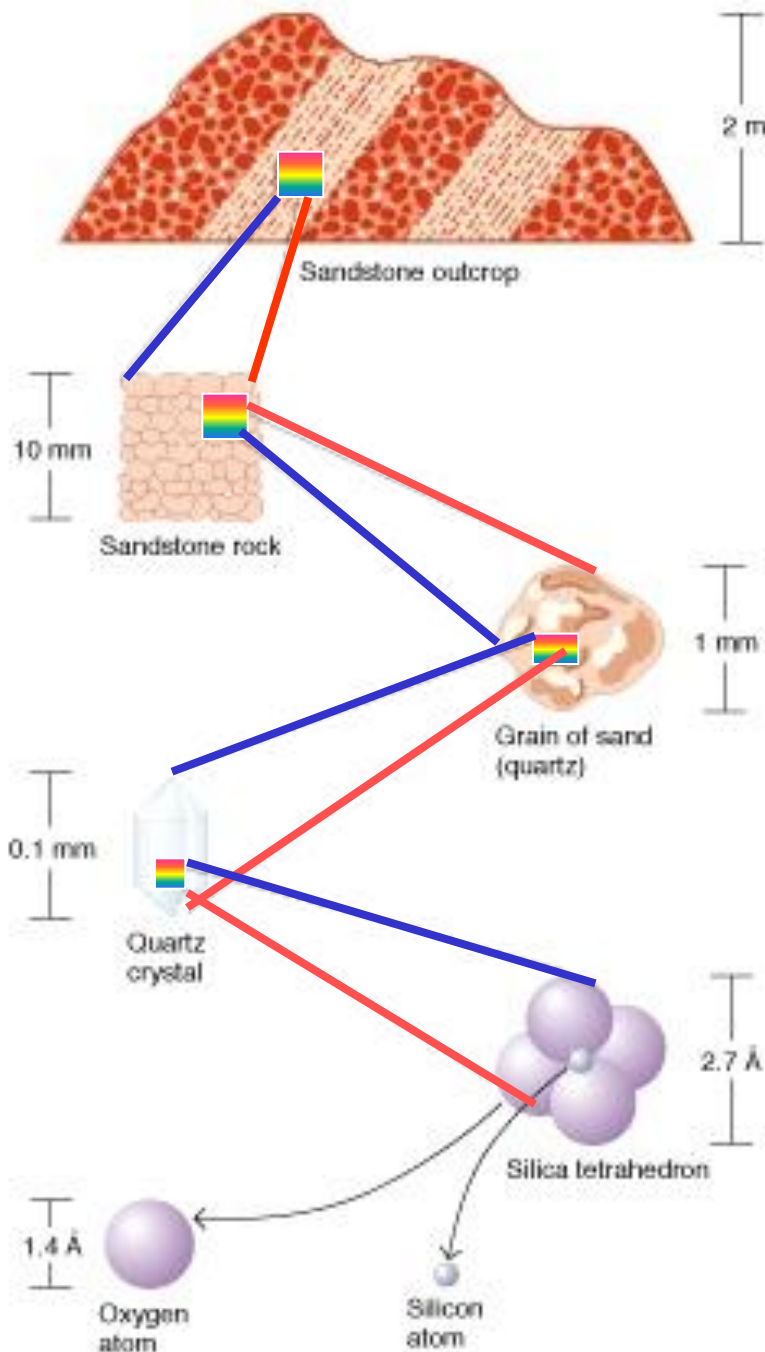


## Minerals

Minerals are naturally formed, generally inorganic crystalline solid composed of an ordered array of atoms having a specific composition.



## Elements



# What are Sedimentary Rocks?

- Sedimentary rocks are defined as those rocks formed via the deposition and lithification (diagenesis) of loose sediments.
- Sedimentary rocks are secondary rocks (i.e. they are formed from pre-existing rocks)
- They form at or near the earth's surface at relatively low temperatures and pressures primarily by either:
  - a) mechanical fragmentation & transport
  - b) precipitation from solution (may be biologically mediated); and /or
  - c) growth in position by organic processes (e.g., carbonate reefs)

Reefal limestone



Bedded  
conglomerate



Beach rock



*thin-bedded  
limestone*



Limestone & shale



Limestone & Sandstone



# Sedimentary Rocks

*fossiliferous  
green sandstone*

Limestone



*limestone &  
sandstone*





# What Sedimentary Rocks have to do with oil industry?

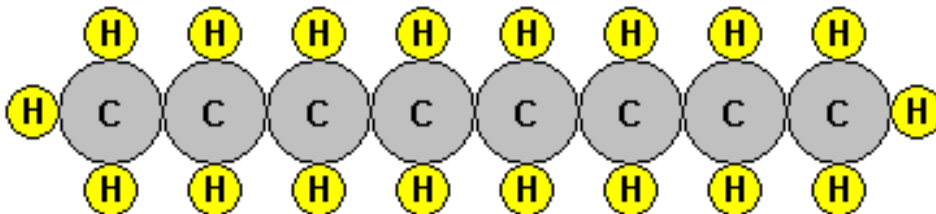
## What is Petroleum?

---

• Physically, Petroleum is a natural, yellow-to-black, flammable, substance found beneath the earth's surface

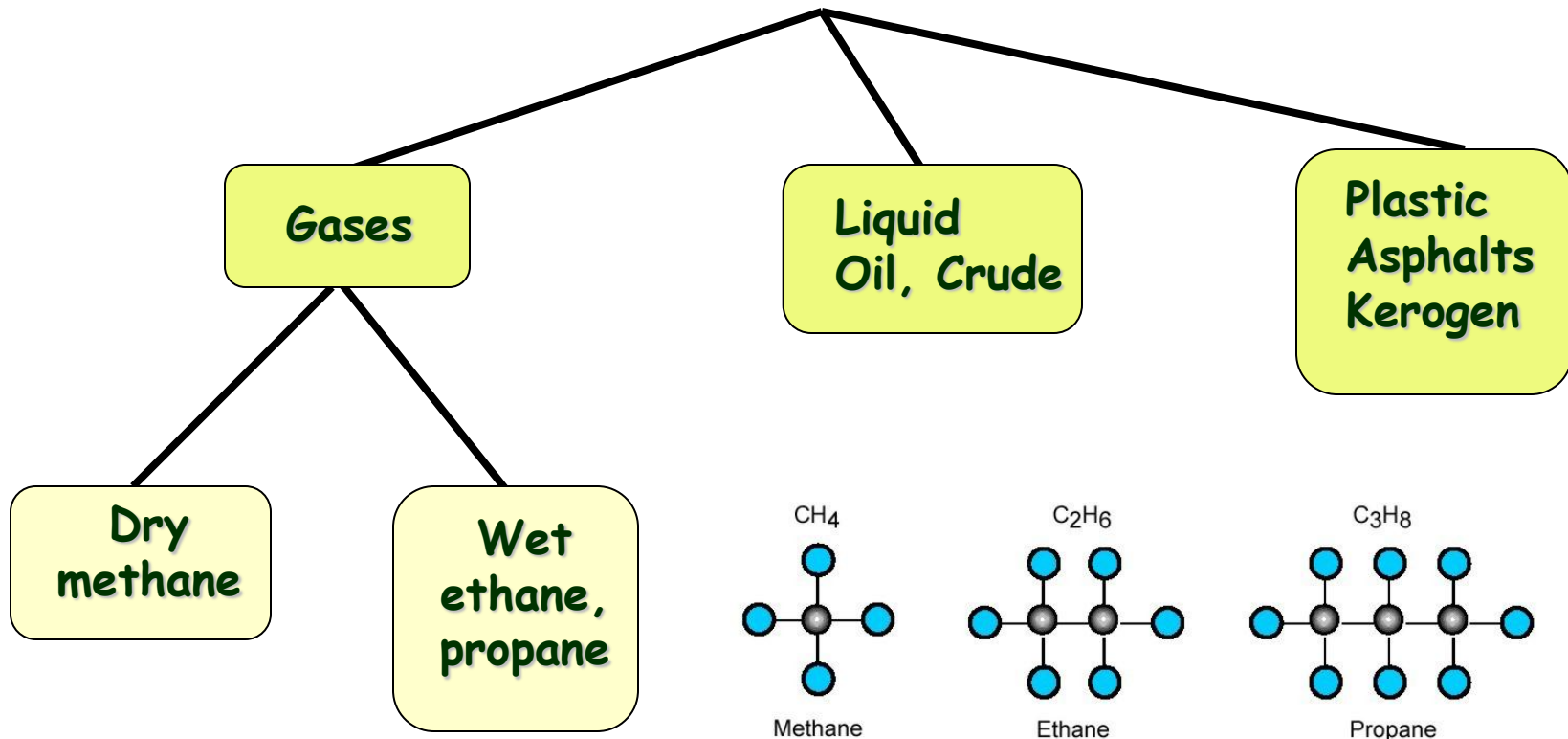


• Chemically, Petroleum is an organic compound, liquid or gas, consisting of organic molecules (*composed of hydrogen and carbon atoms*). Thus the general name "hydrocarbons" is often used.



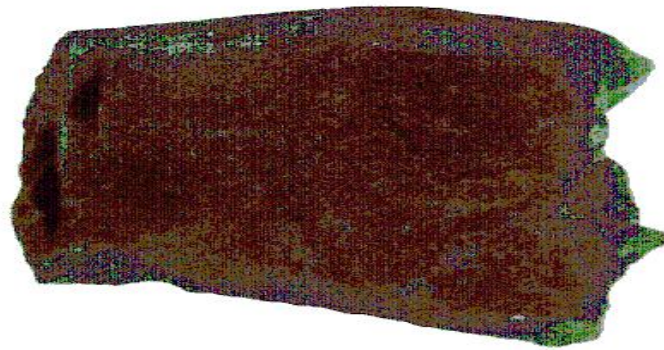
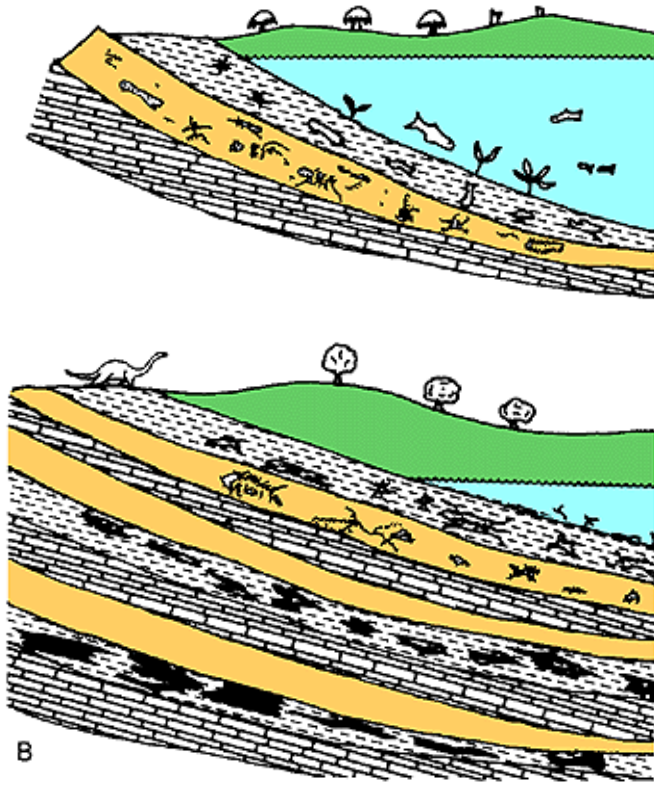
# The main forms of hydrocarbons (oil and gas)

Hydrocarbon: composed of H and C



# The Origin of Petroleum

- Life existing in an ancient sea hundreds of millions of years ago and burial of organic matter in the sediments
- Millions of years later the sediments have increased in thickness and the organic matter is being altered into petroleum under high temperature and pressure



Organic-rich  
Source Rock

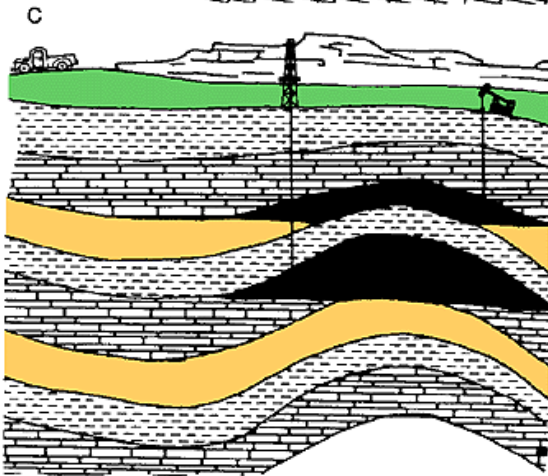
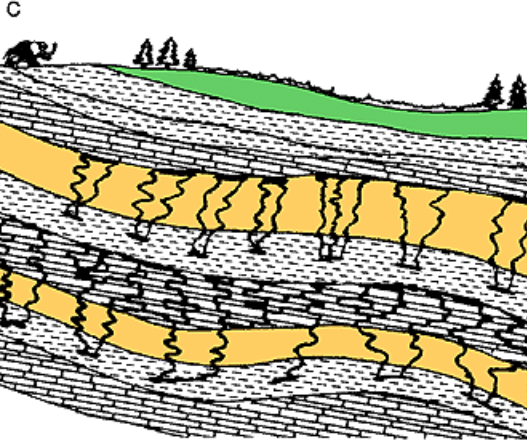
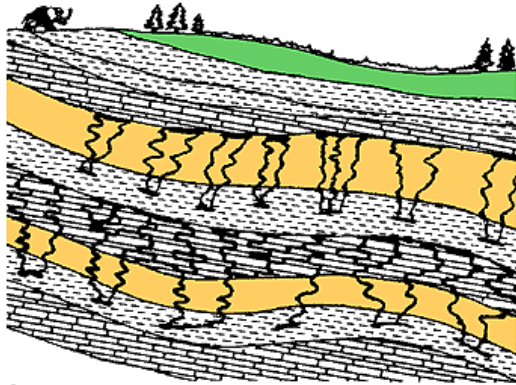


Thermally Matured  
Organic Matter



Oil





- Petroleum migrates from the source rocks into porous rocks (the reservoir rock).

- Tiny globules of oil or bubbles of natural gas collect at the top of the reservoir layer

- Such accumulations are usually too small to be recovered practically from a well.

- However, if the rocks are tilted somehow, the petroleum will continue to migrate up the sloping top of the bed until it reaches the surface or an impermeable barrier to its flow where the petroleum is trapped within a reservoir.

# So, the formation of an oil accumulation requires:

## 1. Adequate organic source material.

- most petroleum is derived from the accumulation of trillions of individual micro-organisms.

## 2. Burial to the appropriate depths.

- depths of 2-6 km and temperatures of 60-160° C.

## 3. Presence of a reservoir-quality rock

a porous storage space. Sandstone and limestone are common reservoir rocks. To be a reservoir it must have:

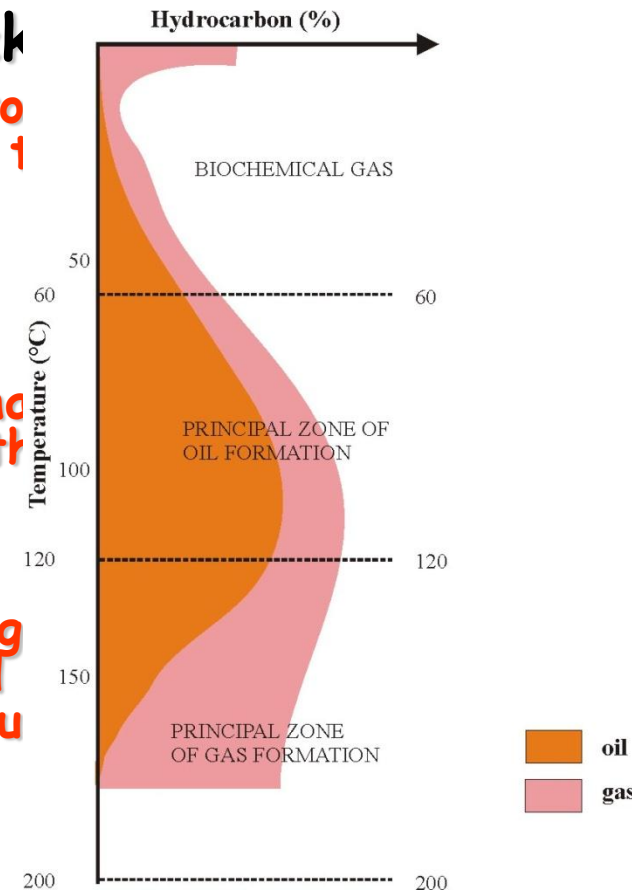
- Porosity, to hold the hydrocarbons
- Permeability, to allow fluid flow

## 4. Presence of an adequate seal

- A seal is an impermeable bed (such as a shale) that sits on top of the trap and prevents the hydrocarbons from rising any further.

## 5. Presence of a trap

- In order to prevent the hydrocarbons from escaping they must be caught in a confined trap. i.e. the source, reservoir and seal must be such a way that the petroleum is trapped.



In addition to the 5 components, further events are essential:

Timing: no trapping unless the traps are present when migration is occurring

Maturation: no petroleum if the source rock Organic Matter does not mature

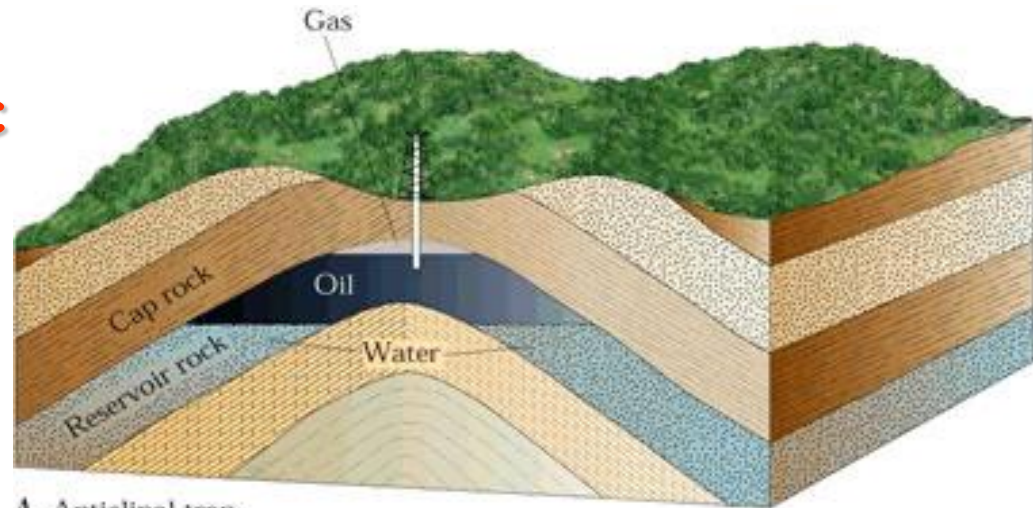
Migration: no accumulation if the petroleum doesn't migrate



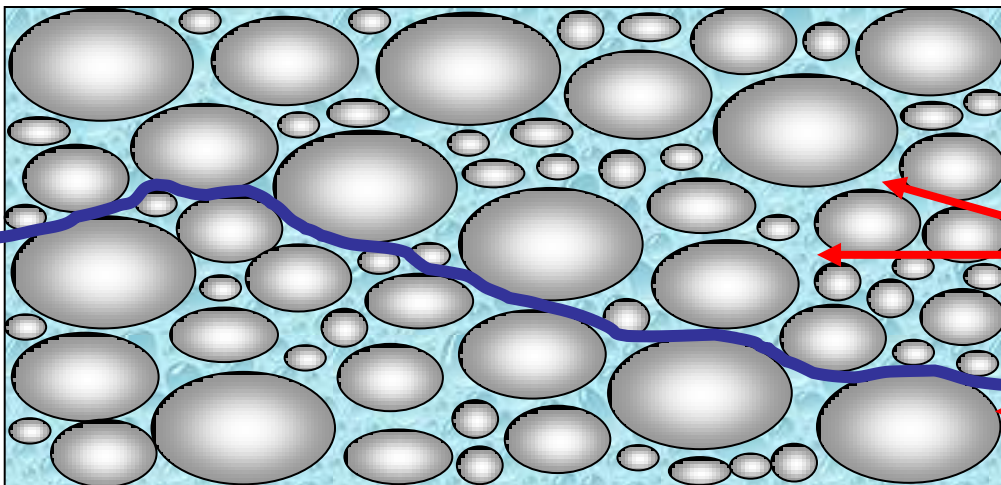
# What is a Reservoir?

Poros\_3.mpg

It is a rock (*mainly sedimentary rock*) characterized by specific petrophysical characters that allow hydrocarbons to be stored and move within it in the subsurface.



A. Anticlinal trap



Pore Space

Rock Grains

# What Sedimentary Rocks have to do with oil industry?

Hydrocarbons

Initiated from  
a sedimentary rock  
(e.g. Black shale)

Stored within  
a sedimentary rock  
(e.g. Sandstone)

Trapped and capped  
by a sedimentary rock  
(e.g. Evaporites)

# How

*1. Reservoir characteristics,*

*2. Oil exploration &*

*3. Production procedures*

# are

in critical dependence on  
sedimentological principles?



# The Exploration and Production of Oil

## pass through three main stages

- 1. First preliminary exploration phase*
- 2. Subsequent establishment of drillable prospects*
- 3. Final phase of development drilling and production*

Sedimentologic principles are involved,  
in a way or another in these three  
stages

# *1. First preliminary exploration phase*

- Close link is necessary with geophysics to elucidate gross structure and stratigraphy.
- Seismic data can detect sedimentary features related to reservoirs and oil trapping as delta fronts, reefs, salt diapirs.

# *2. Subsequent establishment of drillable prospects*

- This step is based primarily on subsurface facies analysis in order to evaluate the nature and distribution of reservoirs.

# *3. Final phase of development drilling and production*

- This phase requires good information about petrography and petrophysics of reservoir rocks in order to predict well locations which will produce the maximum oil and the minimum amount of water.

An aerial photograph of a coastline. The left side of the image shows deep blue water with some white foam from waves. The right side shows a rugged, rocky shoreline with patches of green vegetation and small, irregular pools of water. The text '1. First preliminary exploration phase' is overlaid on the image, with the first line in brown and the second line in yellow.

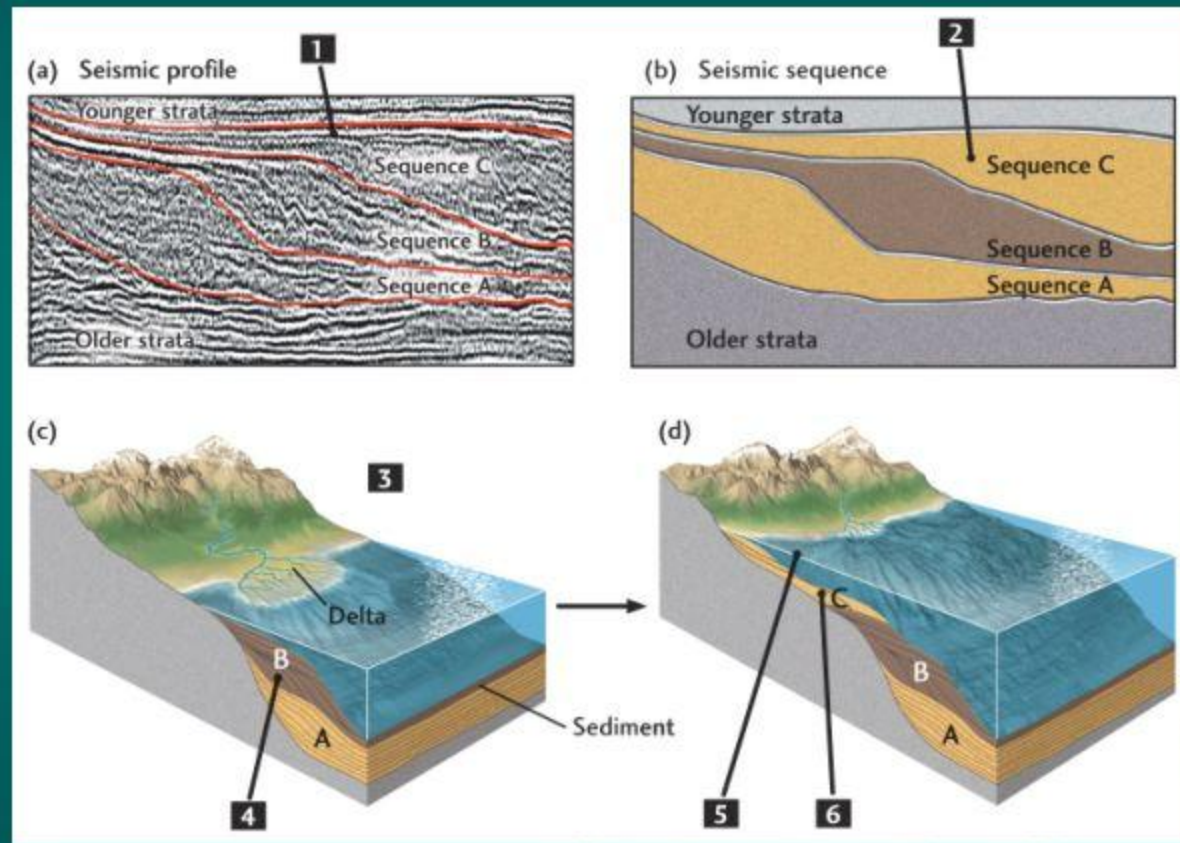
# **1. First preliminary exploration phase**

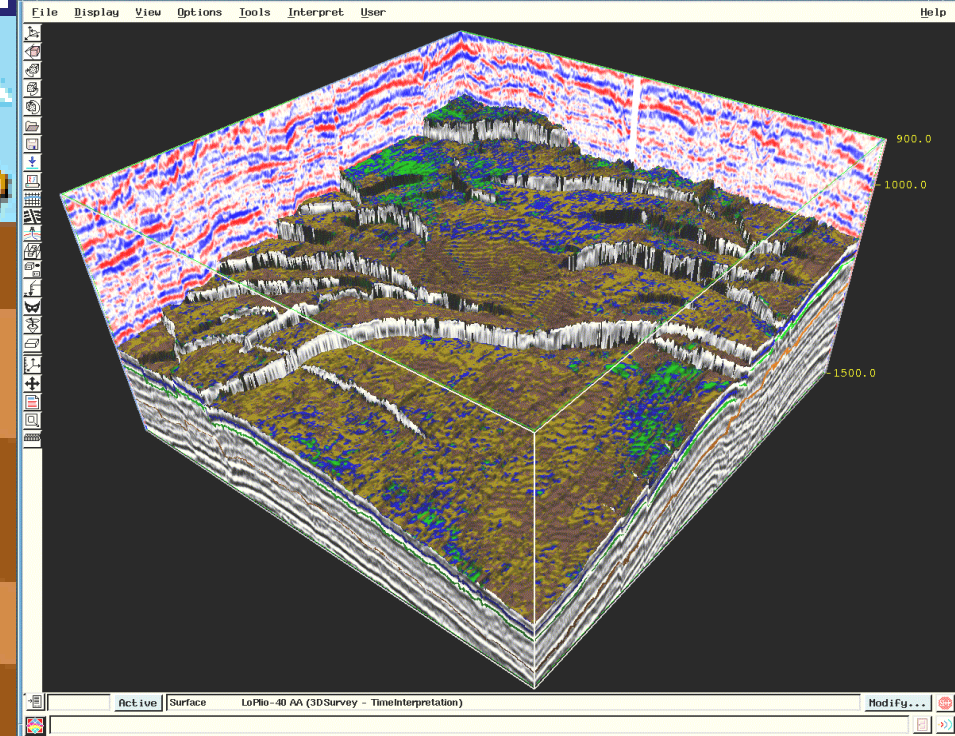
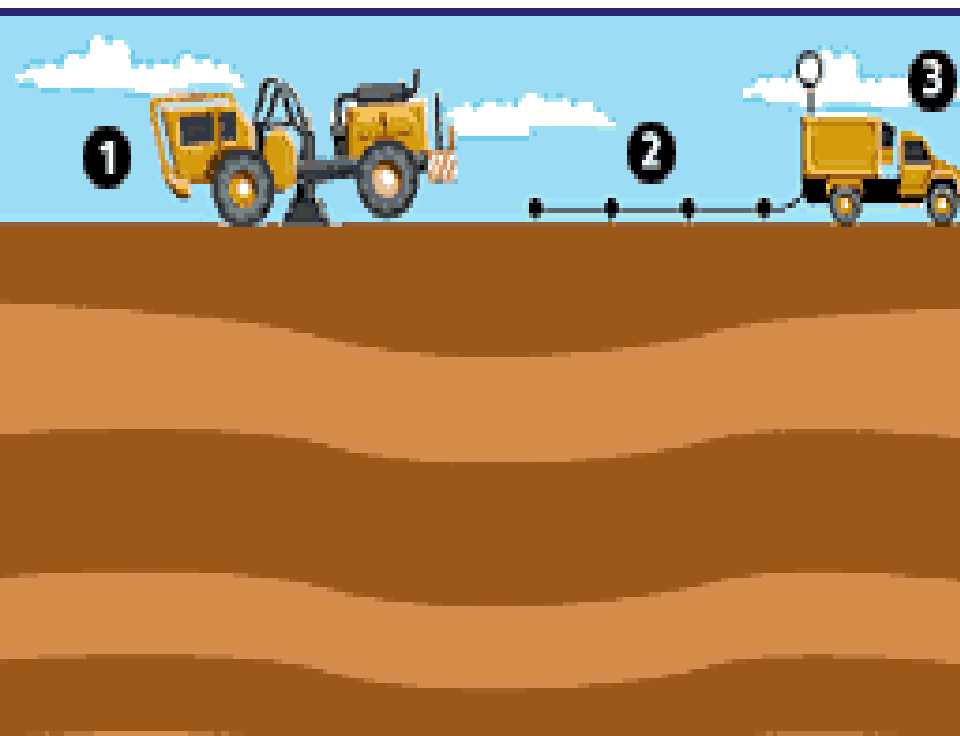
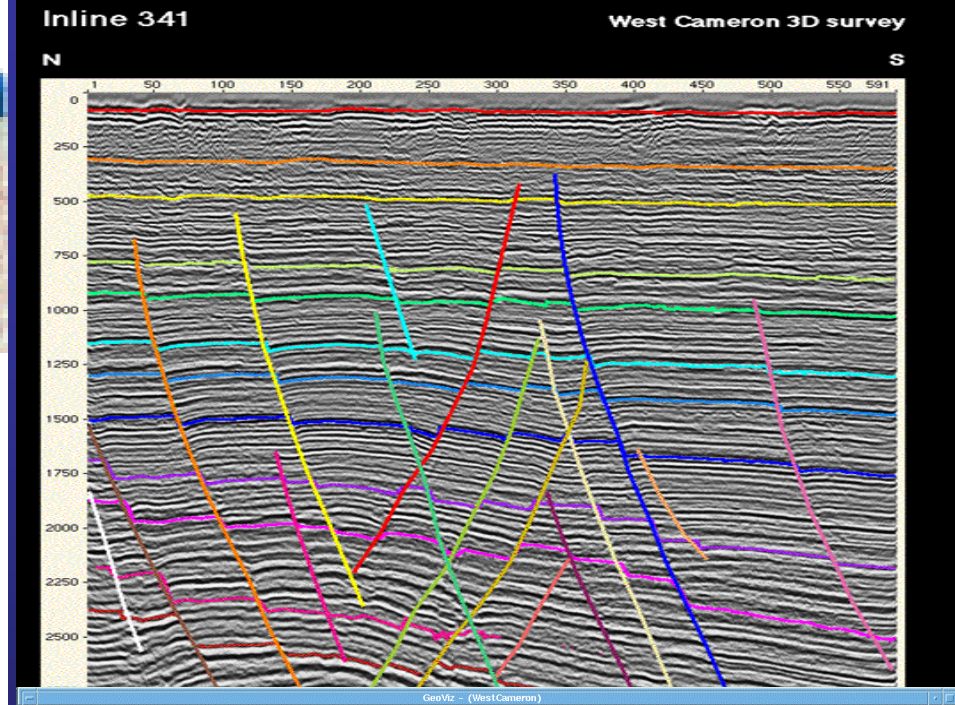
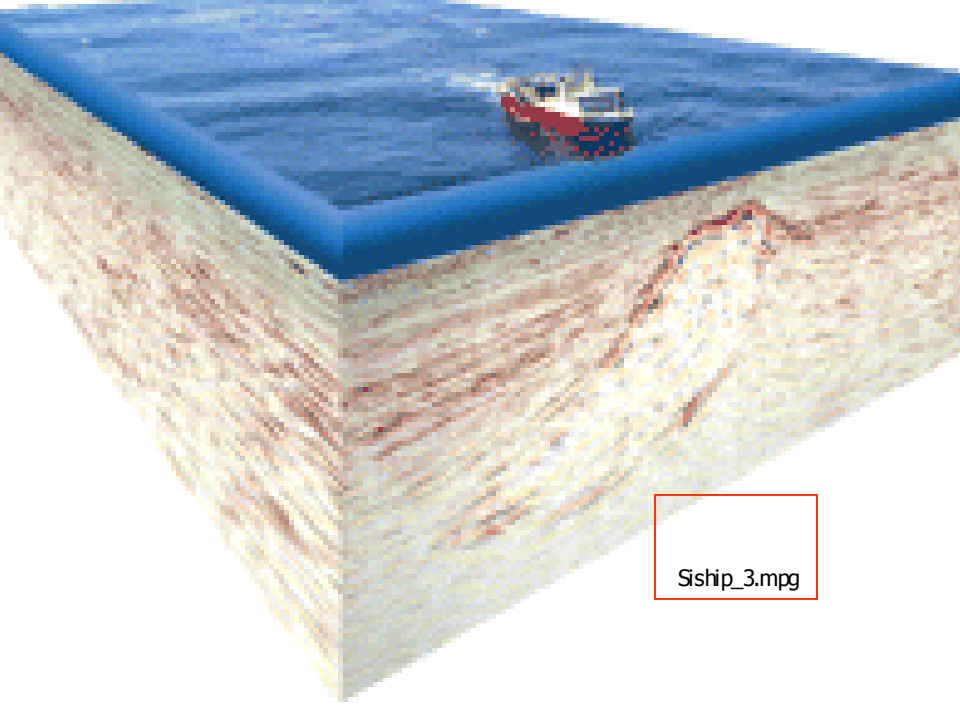


# *1. First preliminary exploration phase*

## Sequence stratigraphy

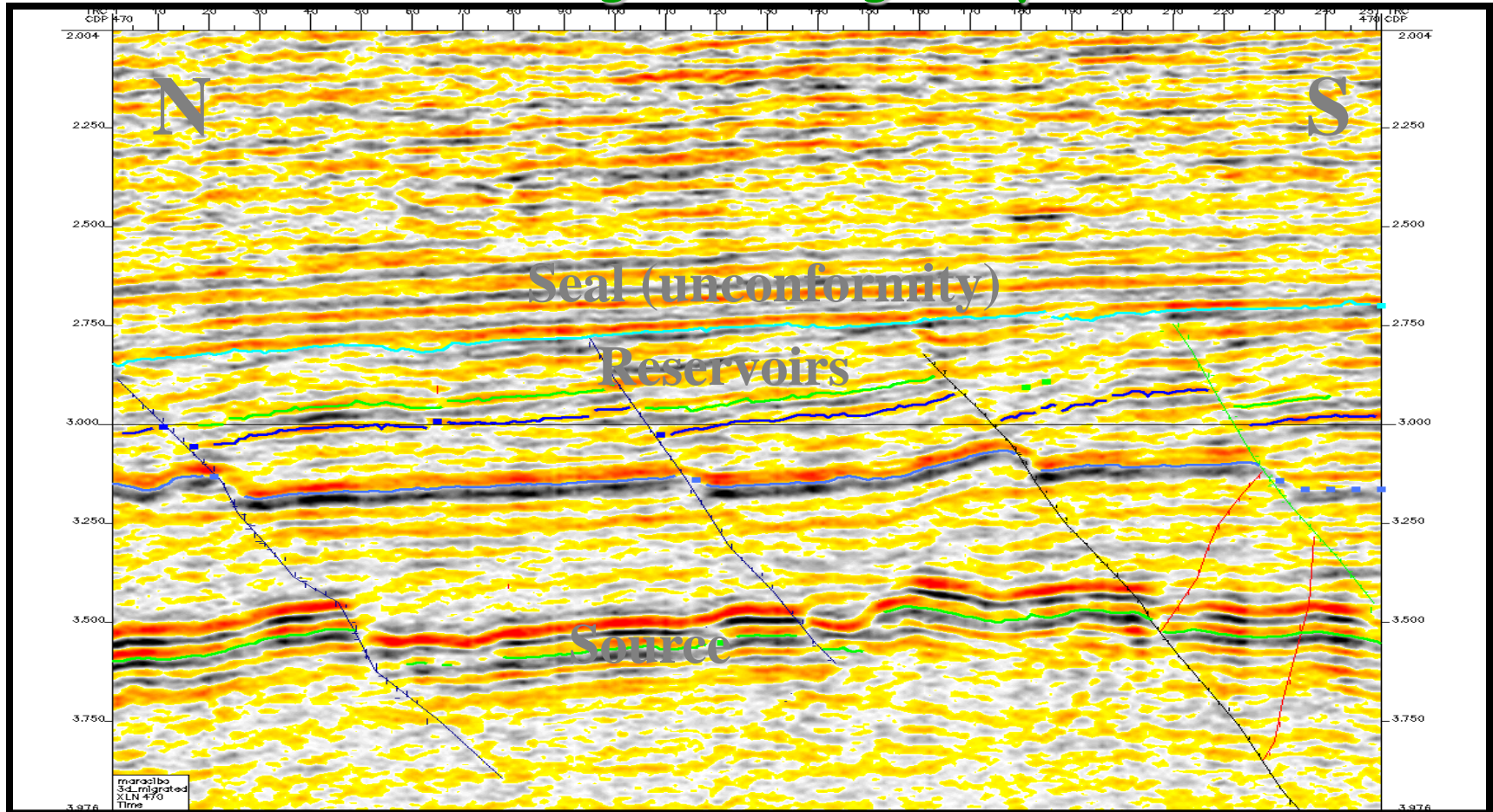
Close link is necessary with geophysics to elucidate gross structure and stratigraphy








# Pre-Drilling Knowledge Exploration



- Structural information obtained from surface seismic data (i.e. Make a structural model of the reservoir).
- Rough geological information can be provided by (Delineate and map reservoir-quality rocks)
- Approximate depths estimated from surface seismic data (e.g. Establish gas/water contacts)



An aerial photograph of a coastline. The left side of the image shows deep blue water with some white foam from waves breaking. The right side shows a rugged, rocky shoreline with various shades of brown, tan, and grey. There are some green patches, possibly vegetation or algae, on the rocks. The overall scene is a natural, coastal landscape.

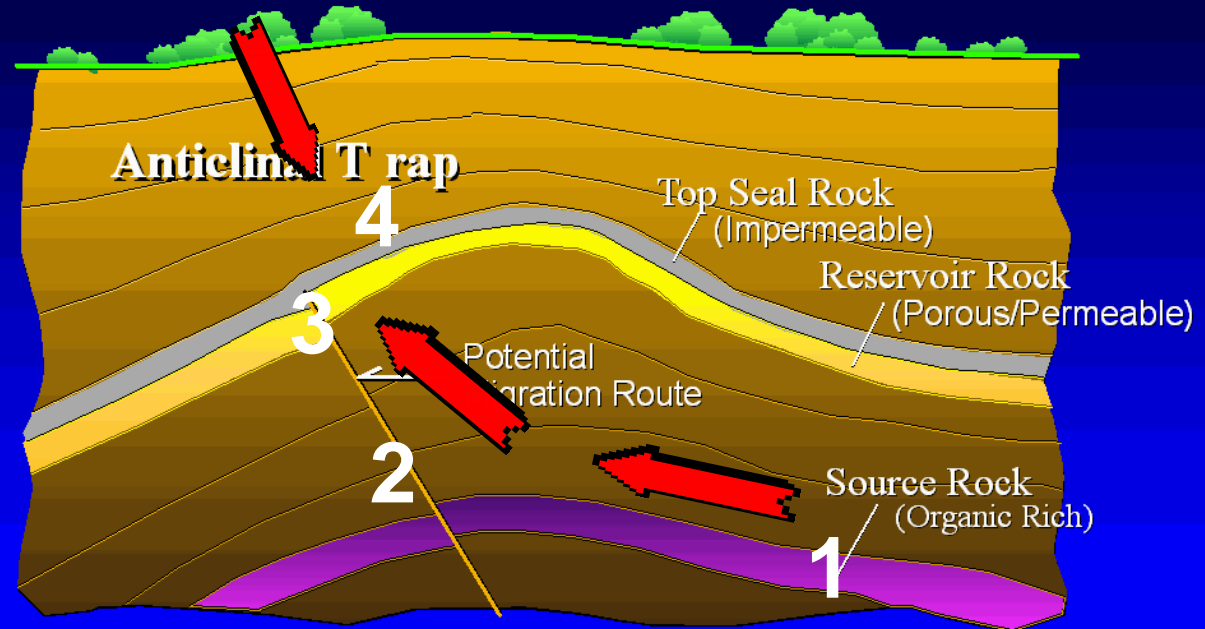
**2. Subsequent establishment  
of drillable prospects  
(i.e. defining a hydrocarbon play)**

## 2. Subsequent establishment of drillable prospects (i.e. defining a hydrocarbon play)

- A play is a group of features that have a high probability of containing oil or gas when found together. This is what a play looks like:

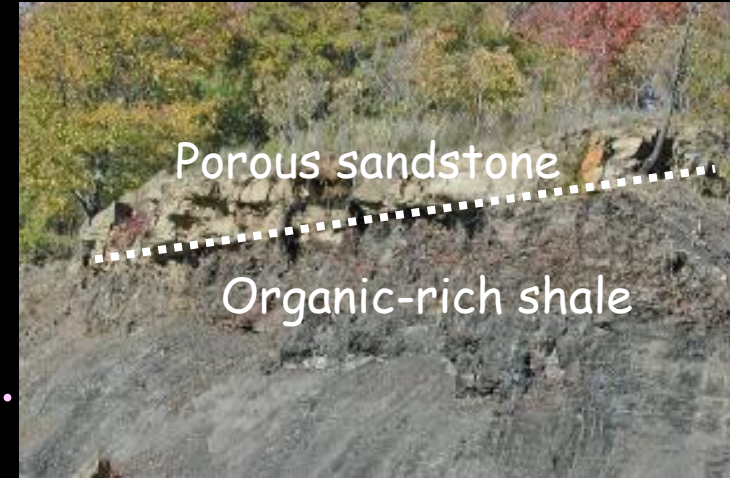
- This step is based primarily on *subsurface facies* analysis in order to evaluate the *nature and distribution of reservoirs*

### Petroleum System Elements



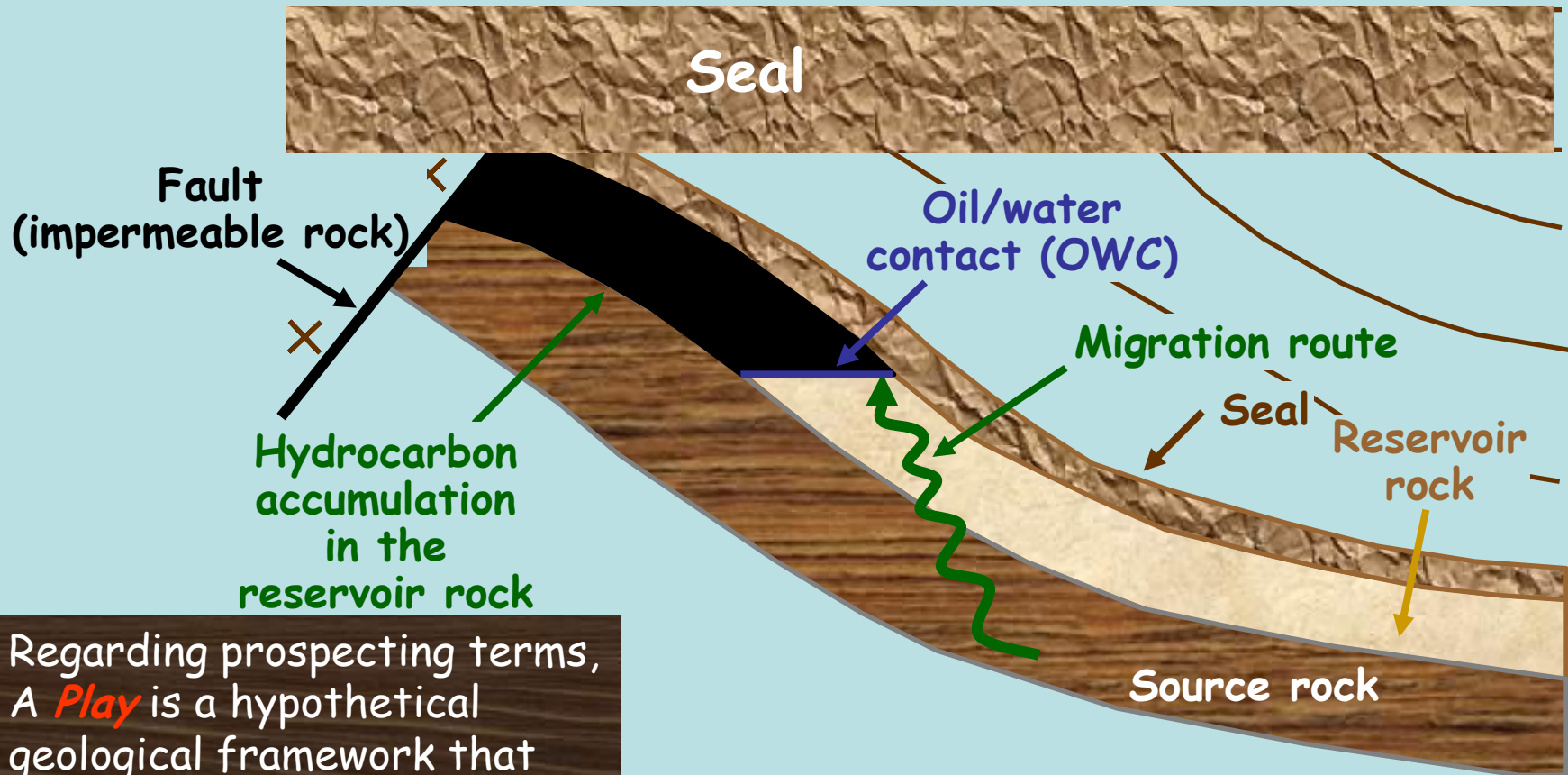
# What Makes a Play?

- The first necessary feature is source rock, or rock that would contain petroleum.
- Since the creation of petroleum increases pressure the petroleum leaves source rock and moves upward.
- In order for petroleum to be extracted source rock must somehow be connected to a layer of porous rock which can absorb the oil and other byproducts (reservoir rock).
- Finally, this porous rock needs to be capped off by a layer of harder rock to keep it all in there (Cap rock or a seal).





# Subsurface Tracing of Generation, Migration, and Trapping of Hydrocarbons: Facies Analysis of Hydrocarbon Play



Regarding prospecting terms,  
A **Play** is a hypothetical  
geological framework that  
contains all the elements  
necessary to find petroleum

# Elements of a Play

## 1. Source Rocks



# The Source Rock



This shale typically contains  $>1\%$  of organic carbon, by weight. Shale is by far the most important source rock for the oil that has been found in the North Sea Basin.

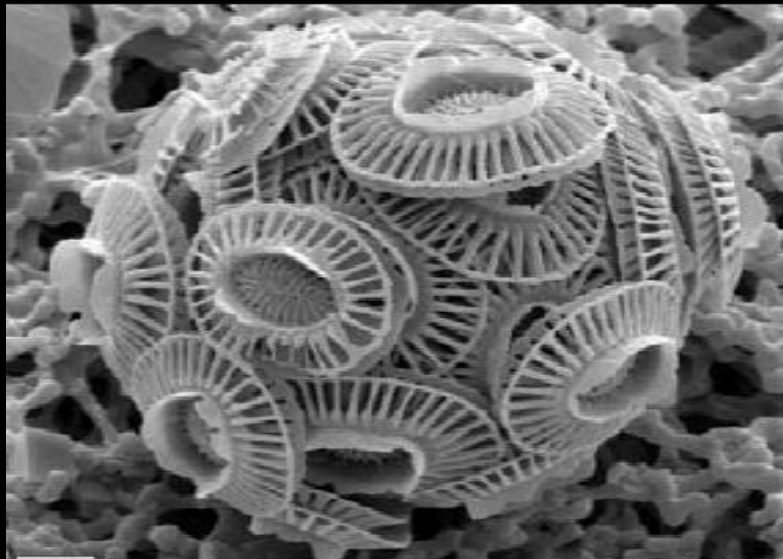


# Black oil shale is the major Source rock: Generators of oil & gas

• Oil and gas are generated from rocks (mainly shales) rich in organic matter, derived primarily from **microscopic** plants and animals and larger land plants:

- ✓ *bacteria*
- ✓ *marine algae*
- ✓ *small marine invertebrates*
- ✓ *larger land plants*

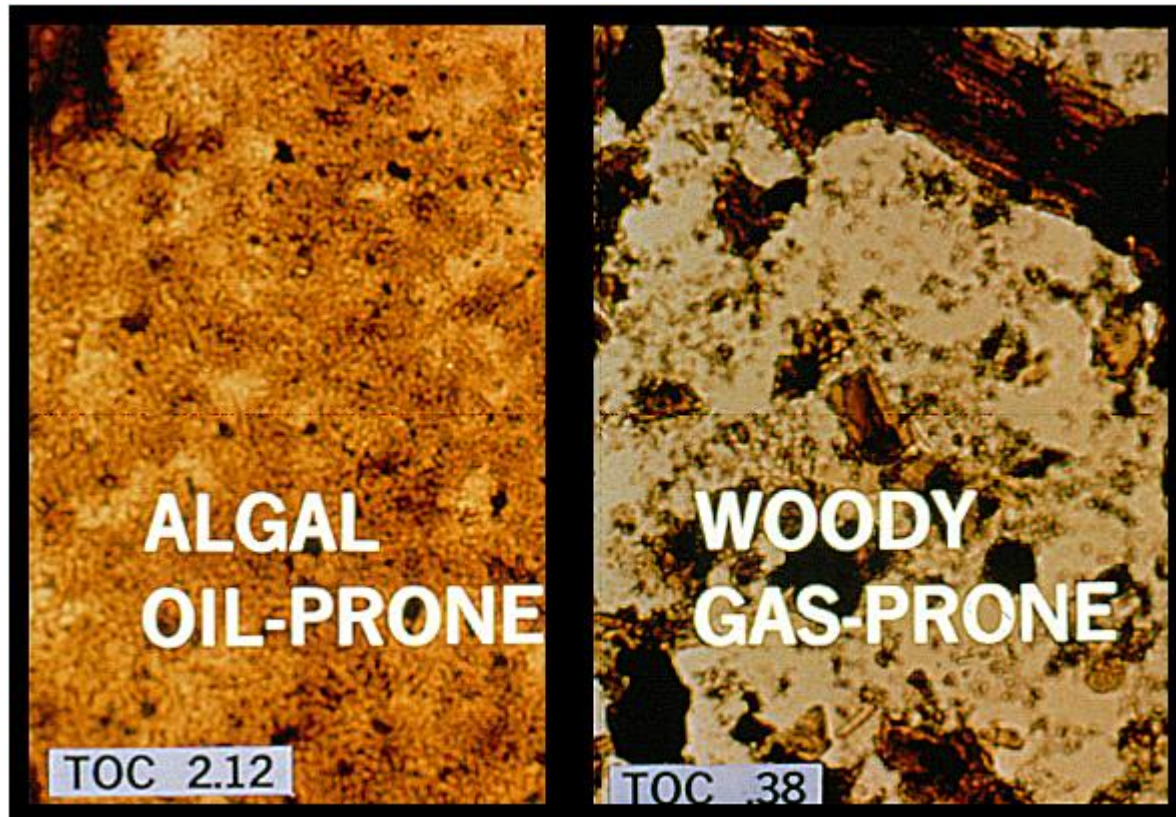
*Marine calcareous algae (oil-prone)*



*Land plants (gas-prone)*



## Kerogen Types



TOC 2.12 WT.%

TOC .38 WT.%

Algae = Hydrogen rich = Oil-prone

Wood = Hydrogen poor = Gas-prone

# Source rocks

- With burial into the subsurface, i.e.  
Increasing: Temperature + Pressure + Time  
Preserved organic matter is Transformed  
into *kerogen* then to *hydrocarbons*
- Certain geologic environments favor the accumulation and preservation of organic matter
  - *large lakes and swamps*
  - *regions of coastal upwelling*
  - *tropical continental shelves*



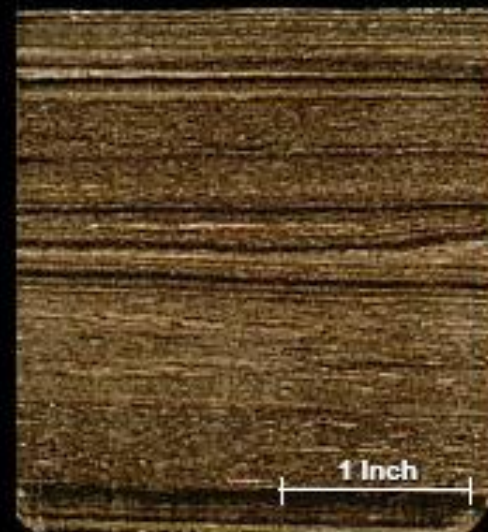
# Characters of source rocks

- Fine-grained (usually shale)
- Laminated: no bioturbation, no benthos
- Sedimentation in deep water: lack of oxygen, no water mixing
- Deposited in Low-oxygen depositional environment: ( $C_{org}$ ) does not become oxidized
- High sedimentation rates with high rates of organic material preservation



Organic-Rich

Thin Laminae



Total  
Organic  
Carbon  
3.39

LOMPOC Quarry Sample  
Monterey Formation, CA

# 2. The Reservoir Rock

- Pools of oil are found in underground traps within host sedimentary rocks.
- The host sedimentary or reservoir rock is still porous enough for the oil to accumulate in spaces between the sediment grains.
- An outcrop of pebbly sandstone (at base of cliff) overlain by red sandstone.
- A few kilometers to the east these beds dip into the subsurface, and form part of the oil reservoir at the Wytch Farm Field, which is Britain's largest onshore oil field.





# Note that

One of the main objectives of reservoir geology evaluation is to examine the impact of reservoir heterogeneities on reservoir behavior.

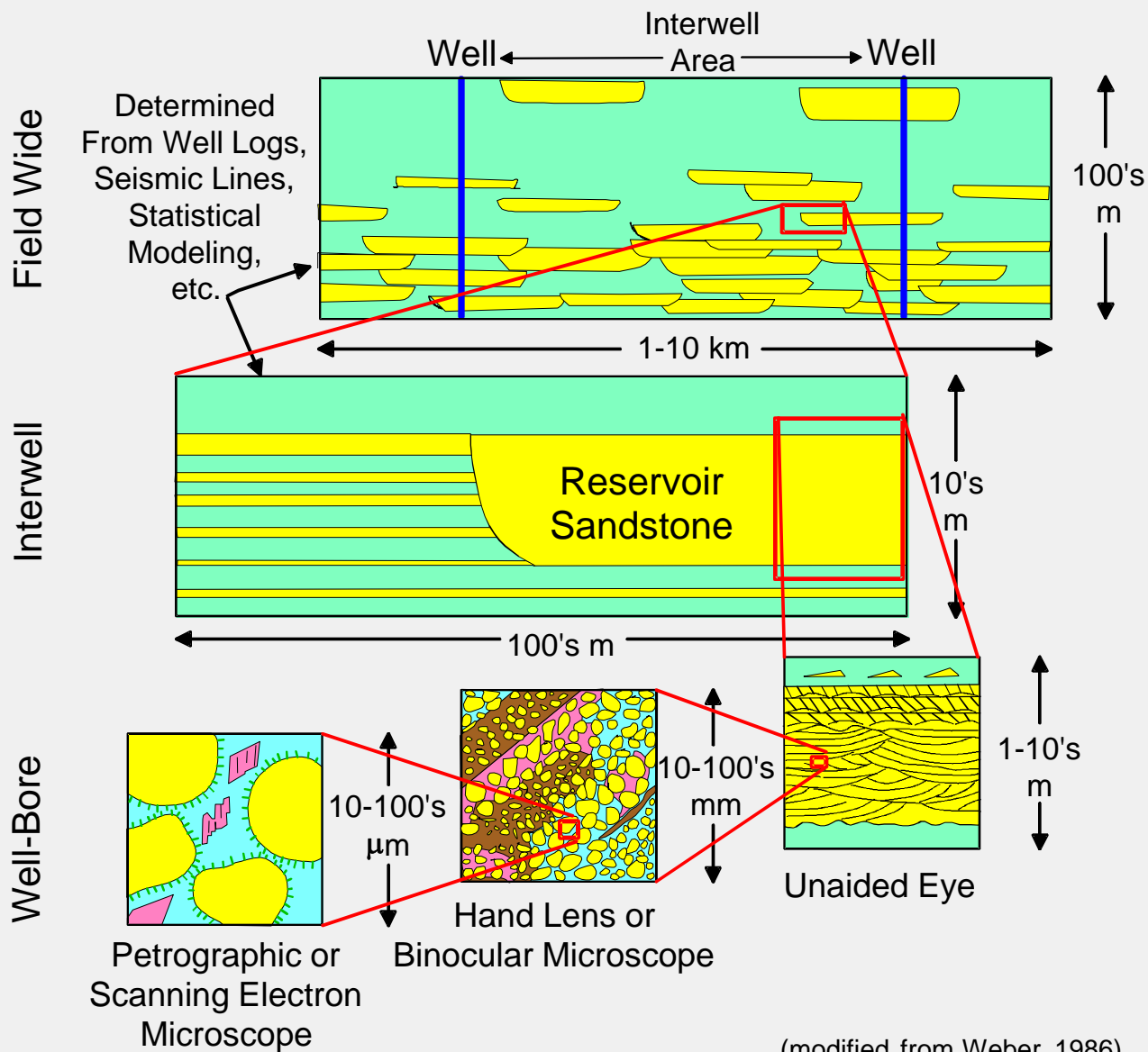




# Reservoir Heterogeneity

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Order: 1-10 km, large faults and sharp boundaries of facies belts, major sequence stratigraphic surfaces
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Order: cm - 10's m, coarse-scale grain-size variations, etc.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Order: mm to m, fine-scale grain-size variations,
- 4<sup>th</sup> Order: micron to mm, very fine-scale grain size variations, laminae, laminasets.

# Scales of Geological Reservoir Heterogeneity



(modified from Weber, 1986)



# Types of Reservoir Rock

- Siliciclastic
- Carbonate
- Fractured



# Sandstone



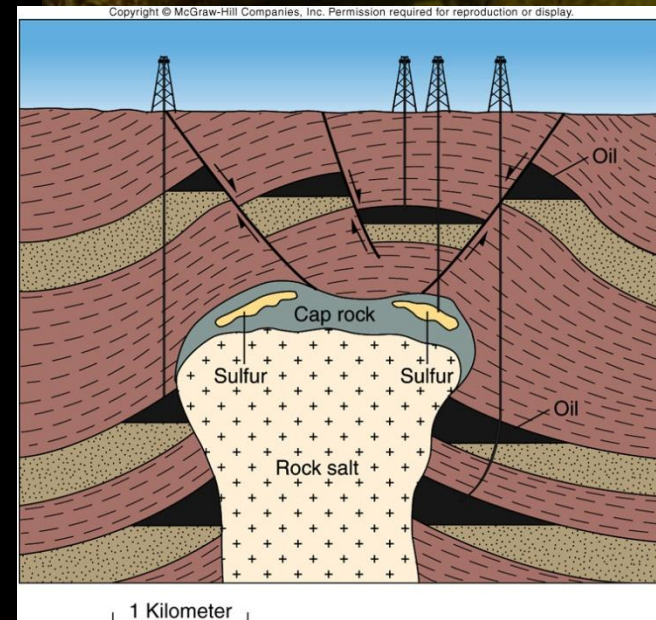
# Limestone





# 3. The Seal

- Sealing is an important element in the play, it helps to prevent fluid from escaping
- Sealing rock must be relatively impermeable
- Typical cap rocks (seals) are: evaporites, chalks and shales
- Elastic cap rock (sealing) is better than plastic ones as it is not fractured easily





An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef on the right side, with various colorful corals and marine life. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the lighting suggests a bright day. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# **3. Final phase of development drilling and production**

### *3. Final phase of development drilling and production*

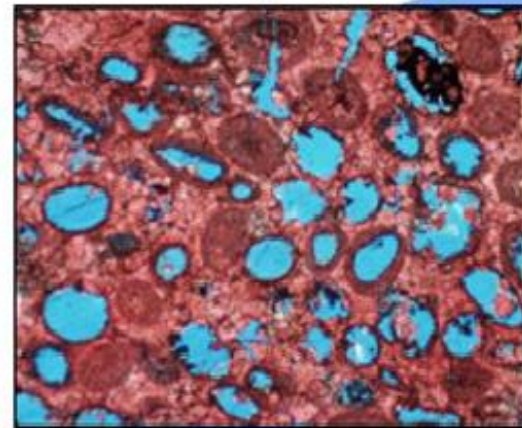
#### **A. Petrography**

- Petrographic analysis of reservoir rocks provides essential information during exploration and production phases.

#### **B. Diagenesis**

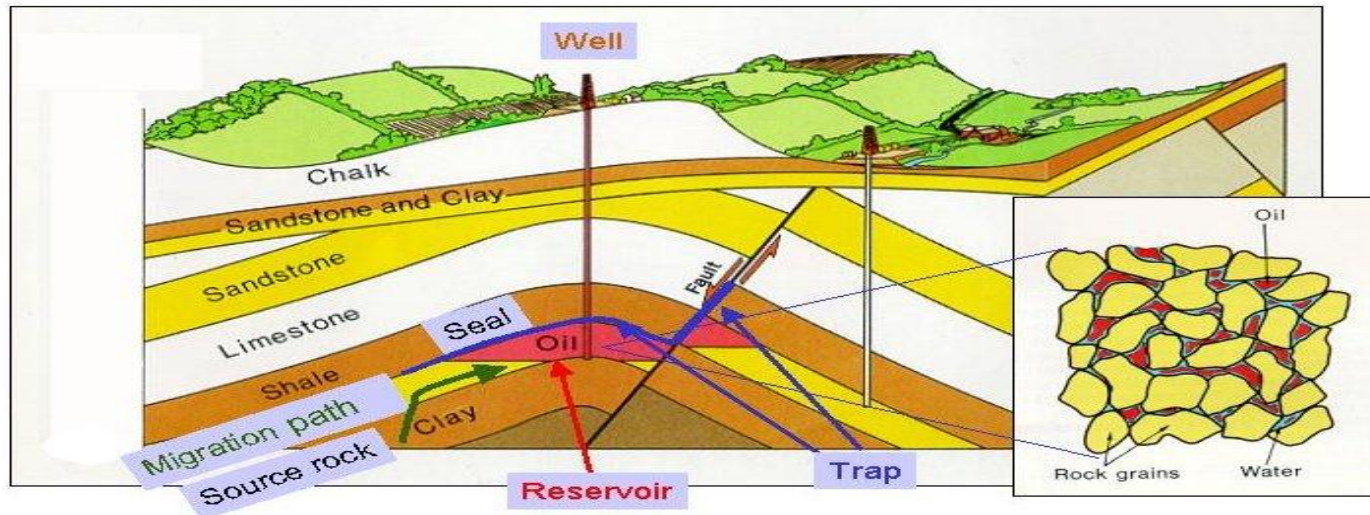
- Diagenesis continuously alters sedimentary rocks and consequently their petrophysical properties .

Reservoir Properties  
and Diagenetic Modeling



# C. Petrophysics

Drill\_3.mpg

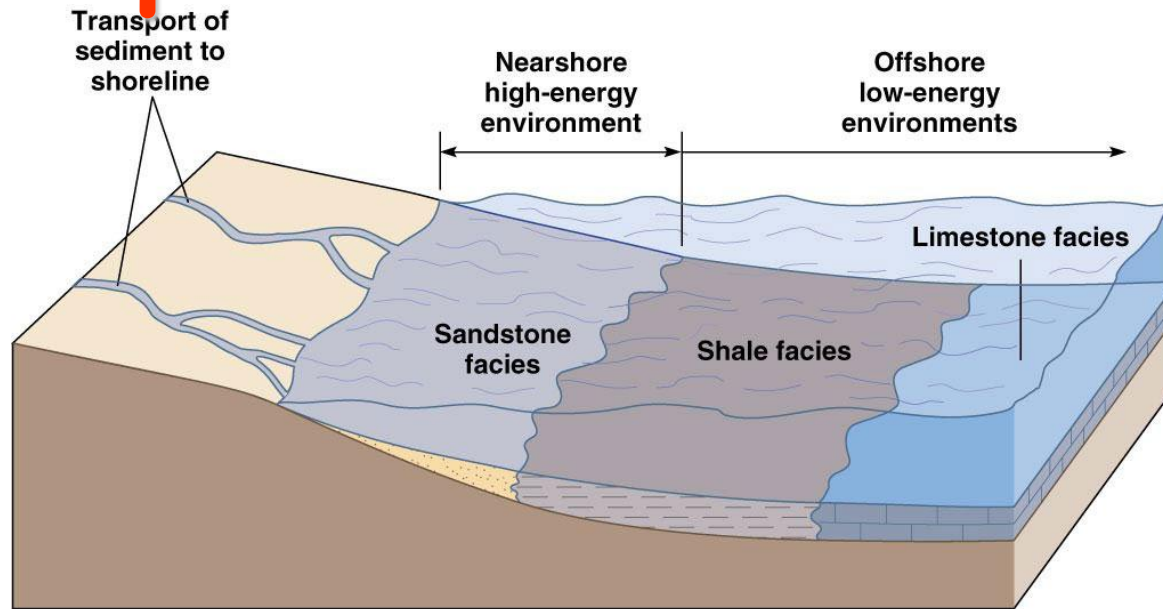


• Petrophysics is the study of the physical properties of the rocks. The assessment of the controlling parameters, such as porosity, pore structures and permeability in sediments and sedimentary rocks is essential in the evaluation of reservoir characteristics.

• Few reservoirs are petrophysically isotropic. Most oil fields show variations among their petrophysical characters. These variations are due either to primary depositional features or to secondary diagenetic changes.



# D) Depositional Architecture

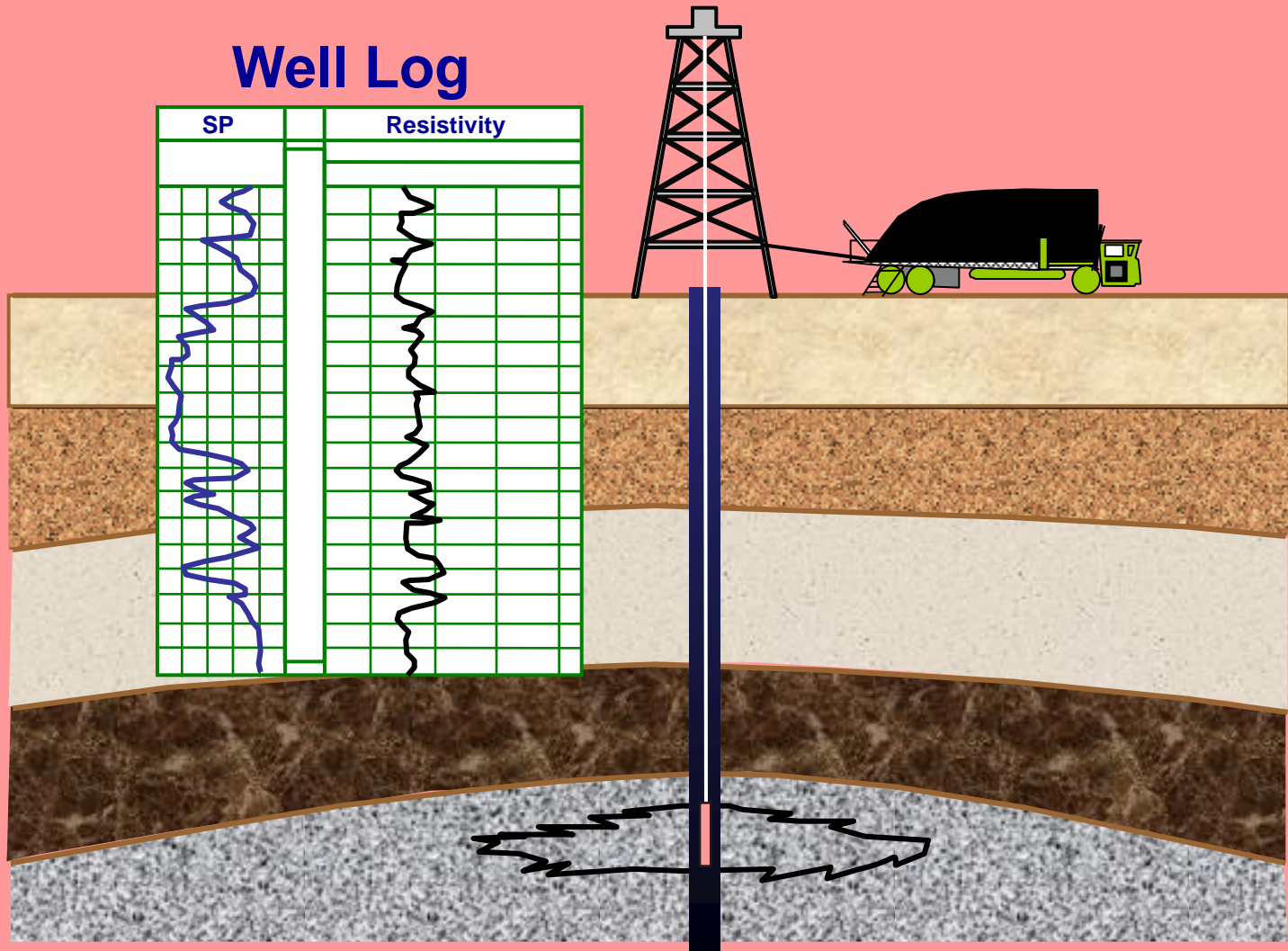


- Sedimentary depositional environments are inherently heterogeneous because of the superposition of sedimentary and diagenetic processes during successions of relative sea level changes .
- Understanding flow in reservoirs depends on knowledge of the architecture of sedimentary structure and lateral and vertical heterogeneity of facies in response to environmental impacts.


# Available Data and their Uses

DATA	USES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Cores</li><li>•Cuttings</li><li>•Thin sections</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Facies, dep. environment</li><li>Paleocurrent directions</li><li>•Mineralogy, lithology</li><li>•Mineralogy, lithology</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Paleontology (micro, macro, traces),</li><li>•Palynology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Water depth, depositional environment, time line; paleocurrent direction, lithofacies</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Paleocurrent directions, lithofacies</li><li>•Lithology, Porosity,</li></ul>

# Openhole Log Evaluation





The background of the slide is a photograph of a coral reef. On the right side, there is a detailed view of a coral reef structure with various types of coral and some small fish. The rest of the image is a deep blue, slightly blurred view of the ocean water.

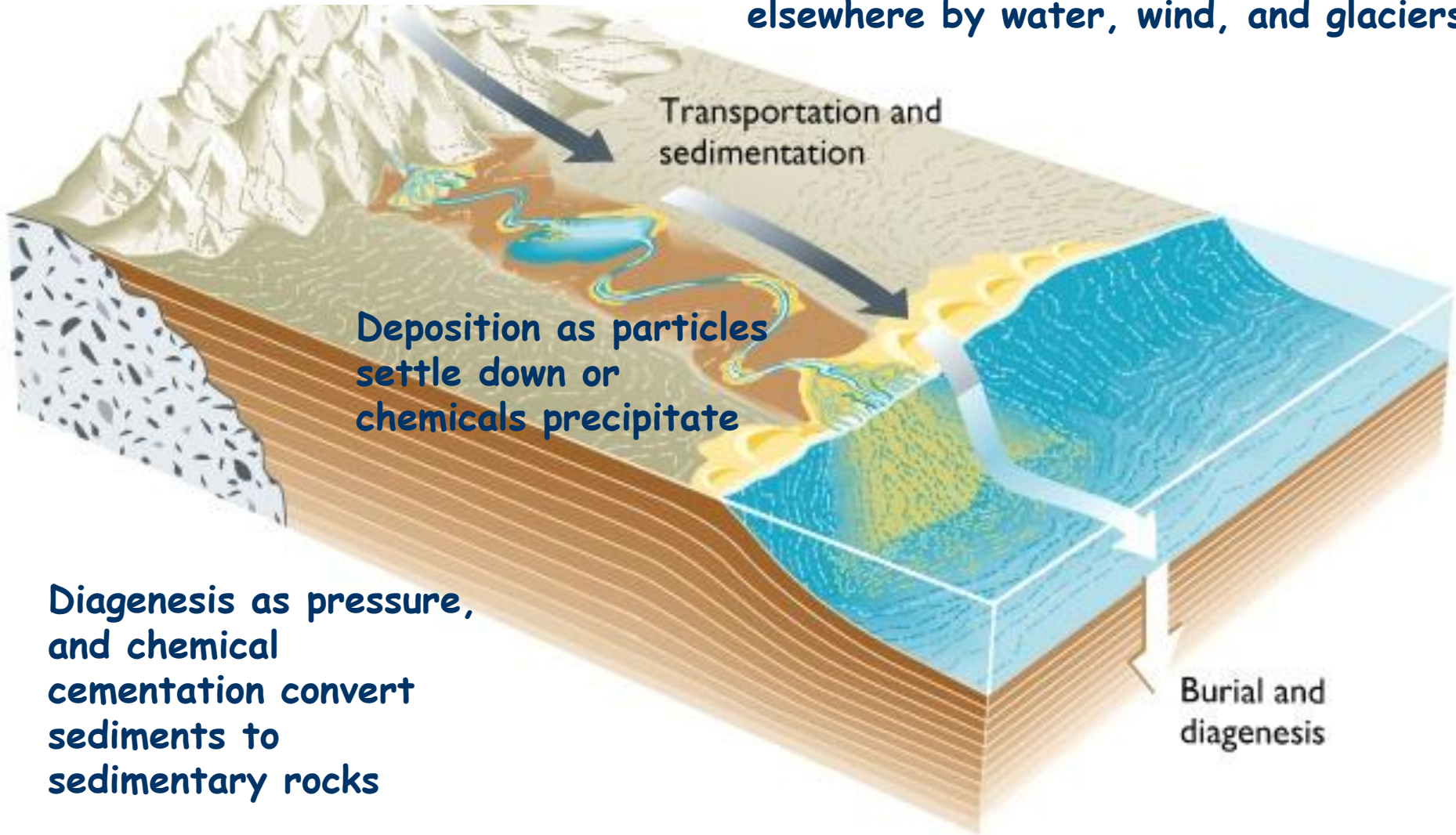
Before oil, how the oil  
container (reservoir)  
was formed?

# Origin of Sedimentary Rocks

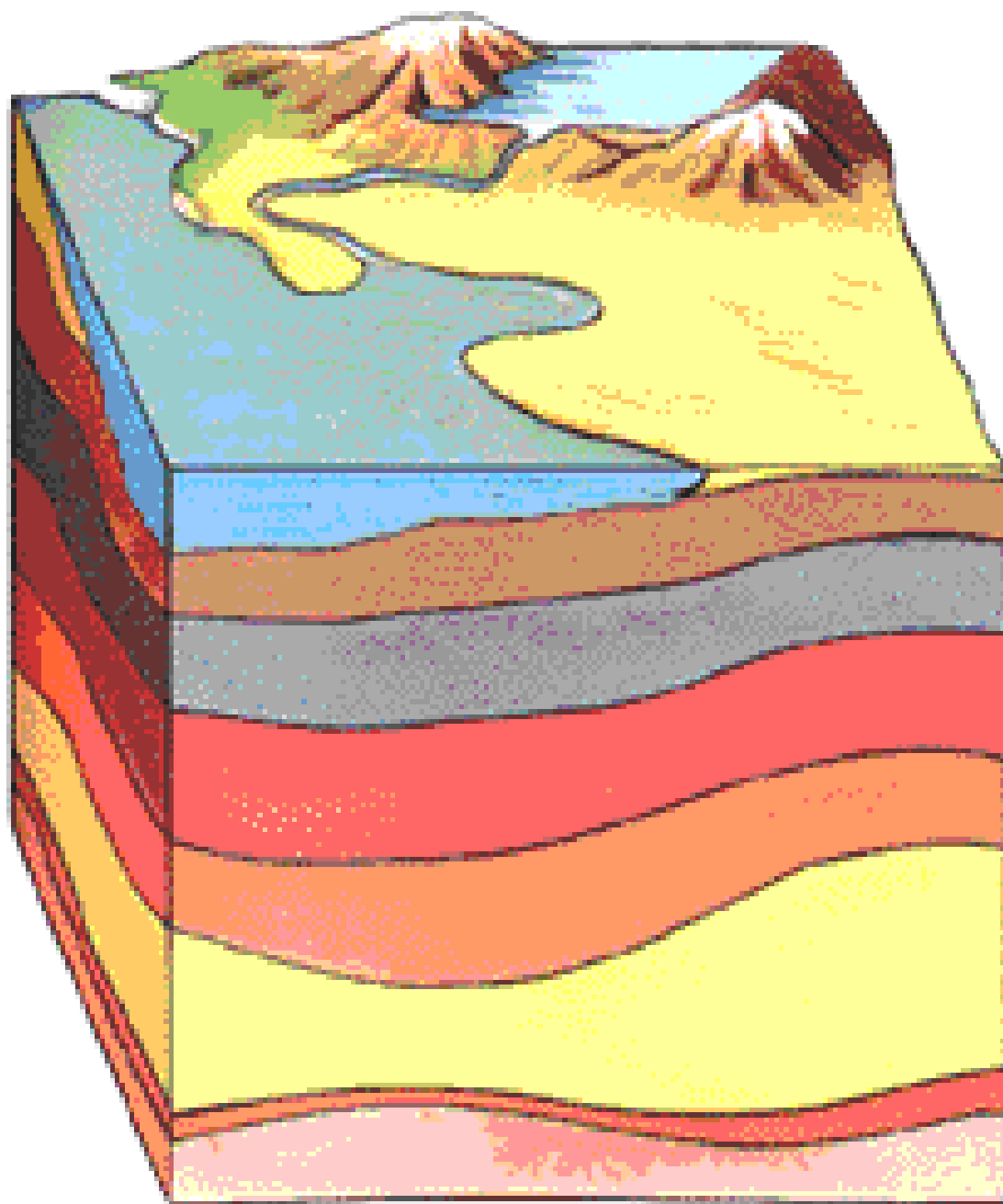
# Sedimentary Stages in the Rock Cycle

Weathering & Erosion breaks rocks down into smaller particles and produce sediments

Transportation removes sediment from its source area and carries it elsewhere by water, wind, and glaciers

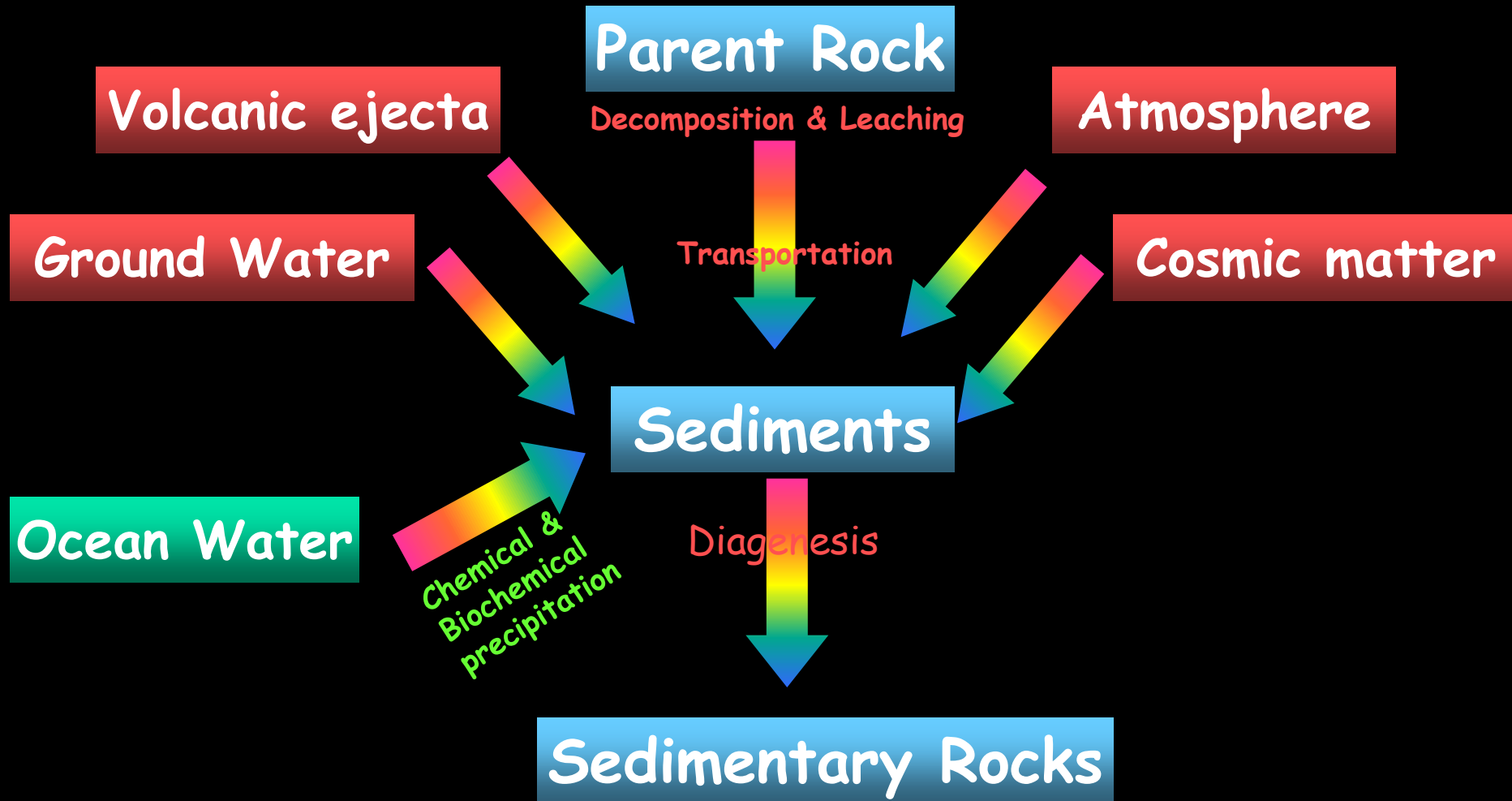


Diagenesis as pressure, and chemical cementation convert sediments to sedimentary rocks





# Origin of Sedimentary Rocks



# Source area (any preexisting rock)

- **Chemical weathering**  
**Weathering products**

- Clay minerals
- Ions and compound in solution

- **Transportation**

- Precipitation from solution
- Used by organisms

- **Deposition (non-detrital sediments)**

- **Lithification**

- **Chemical & Biochemical sedimentary rocks**  
(e.g. limestone)

- **Physical weathering**  
**Weathering products**

- Gravel, sand, silt and clay-sized particles

- **Transportation**

- **Deposition (detrital sediments)**

- **Lithification**

- **Detrital sedimentary rocks**  
(e.g. sandstone)

# So, It is now evident that

Sedimentary rocks are the product of

1.the creation of detritus and solutes  
derived from pre-existing rocks.

2.transportation,

3.deposition, and

4.diagenesis





# What are the types of Sedimentary Rocks?

# Sedimentary rocks may be classified according to:

## 1. Genesis into:

- Exogenetic sedimentary rocks formed of components derived from outside the basin of accumulation
- Endogenetic sedimentary rocks formed of components formed within the basin of accumulation

## 2. Mode of Formation into:

- Mechanical sedimentary rocks formed by the fragmentation of pre-existing rocks where the resultant fragments are transported to the basin
- Chemical sedimentary rocks formed by direct chemical precipitation from fluids
- Biochemical sedimentary rocks formed chemically by the aid of organisms

## 3. Fabric Components into:

- Clastics composed of rock pieces that are derived from pre-existing rocks
- Non clastics composed of grains formed in situ or crystals nucleated from the solution

# Rock Identification is based on:

## ■ *Composition*

What minerals  
make up the rock?

## ■ *Texture*

What is the shape,  
size and orientation  
of the mineral grains  
that make up the  
rock?

Major Difference:  
Crystalline vs. Clastic



# Sedimentary rocks may be classified according to:

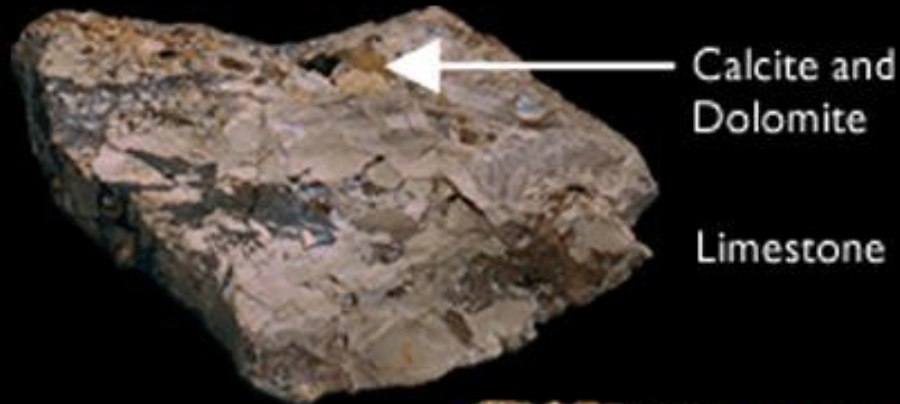
## Fabric Components into:

1. Clastics composed of rock pieces that are derived from pre-existing rocks. These pieces are usually formed by the fragmentation of pre-existing rocks where the resultant fragments are transported to the basin
2. Non clastics composed of grains formed in situ or crystals nucleated from the solution either by:
  - Chemical precipitation by direct chemical precipitation from fluids
  - Biochemical precipitation by the aid of organisms

# Types of Sedimentary Rocks

- Composed of chemical minerals formed either by direct chemical precipitation or under the influence of biological processes

## Non clastics



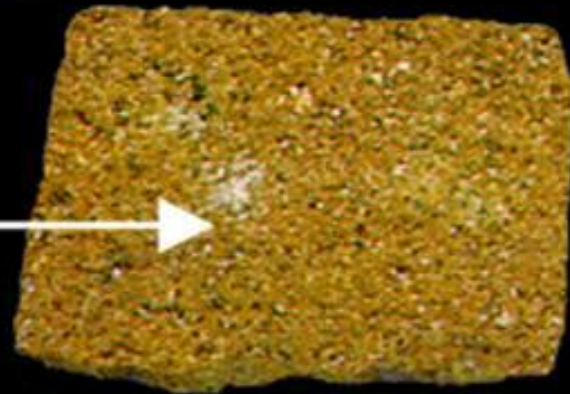
- Consist Primarily of Silicate Minerals

- Are Classified on the Basis of:

- Grain Size
- Mineral Composition

Quartz and Clay Minerals

Sandstone



## Clastics

# Clastic Sediments

Clastic sediments are made up of pieces of preexisting rock (clastic particles; detritus) & minerals (Quartz, Feldspars, Micas) derived from physically transported rock fragments produced by weathering.

So they may contain:

- *retained minerals (e.g. quartz)*
- *unaltered pieces of pre-existing rocks*
- *partially weathered particles,*
- *new particles produced by weathering (clay minerals).*
- These sediments accumulate rapidly (10x more than chemical and biochemical sediments).

## Types of Clastic sediments include

1. **Siliciclastics** are those composed of (non-volcanic) particles of all sizes, clay to boulders. They are the most important among other clastic rocks related to their abundance and distribution.
2. **Volcaniclastics** are those composed of eruptive volcanic rock particles
3. **Cosmoclastics** are those composed of particles derived from cosmic sources i.e. from the outer space



# *Types of Siliciclastic (detrital) Sedimentary Rocks*

Largely based on the size of the particles,

- Conglomerate (poorly sorted/rounded)
- Breccia (poorly sort/angular)
- Sandstone (quartz arenite , arkose, greywacke)
- Mudstone
- Siltstone
- Shale - most common rock on the continents

# Detrital Rock Names

*(Based Primarily on Grain Size)*

Gravel -Sized:  
Conglomerate



Sand Sized: Sandstone



Siltstone



Shale

Mud-Sized:  
Mudstone

# Coarse Clastic Particles





# Conglomerate





Univ. of Georgia  
Department of  
Geology

Medium  
Clastic  
Particles  
(sands)

260

Sample number

1 cm







Quartz sand





Quartz sand

# Sandstone





# Shale





# Non Clastic Rocks

- Rocks formed by the precipitation of minerals from solution from ions or molecules derived from dissolved weathering products
- Precipitation occurs by either organic or inorganic processes

# *Types of Non Clastic Sedimentary Rocks*

*Limestone*



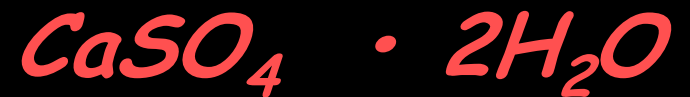
*Chert*



*Rock Salt*



*Gypsum*



*Coal*



*Phosphate*



# Limestone





# Halite

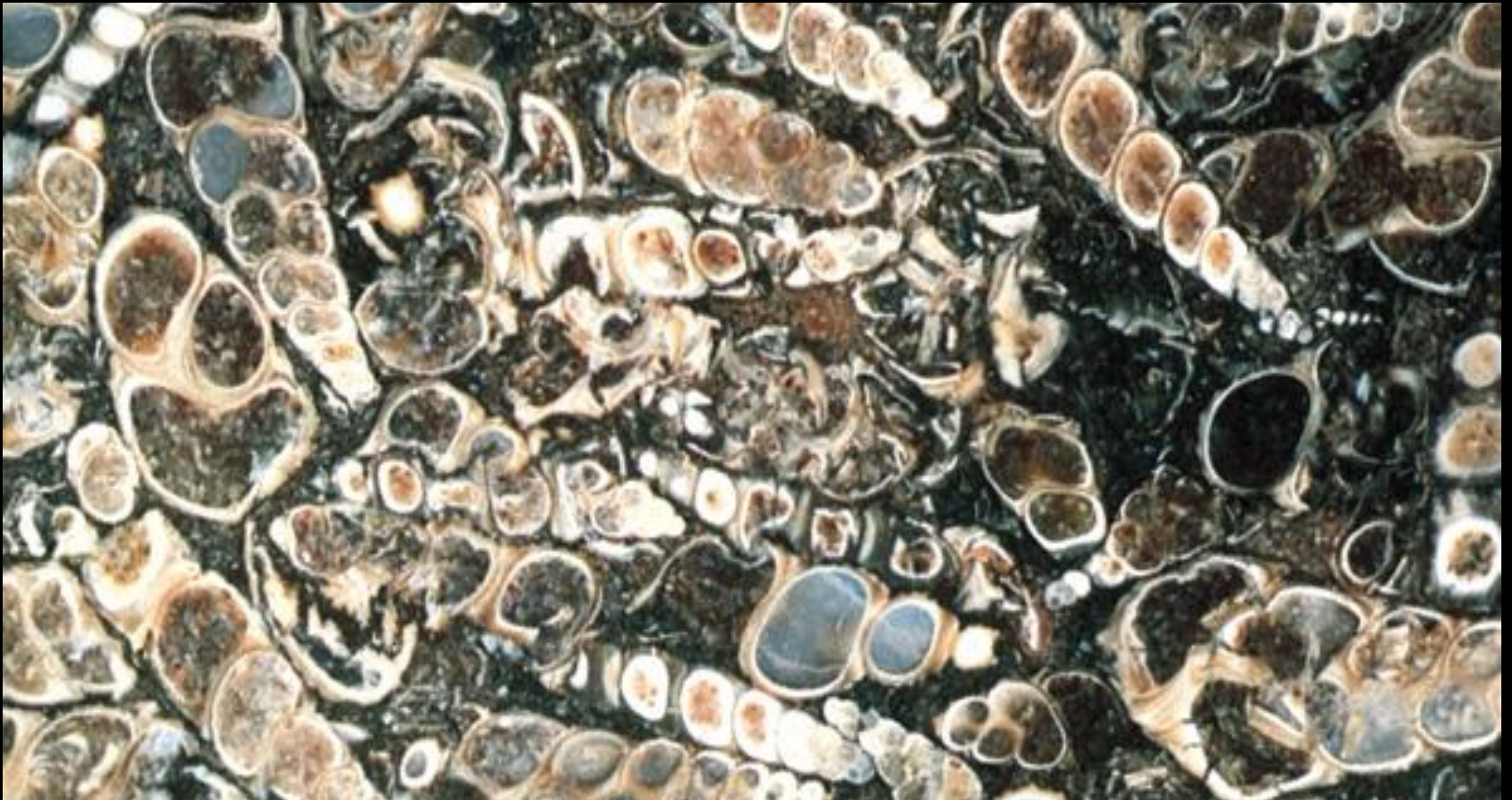


# Chert



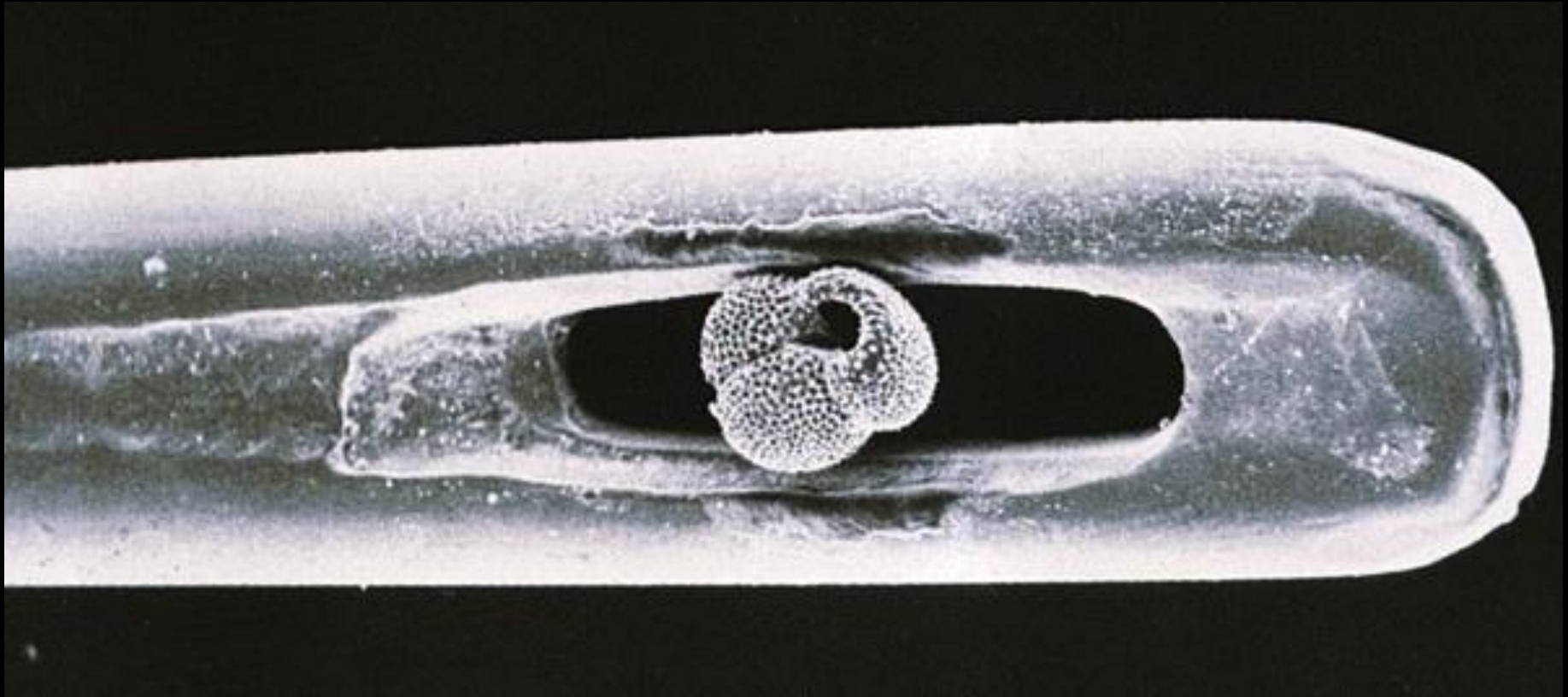


# Fossiliferous Limestone





# Foraminifer in the Eye of a Needle







## Reefal Limestone



## Reefal Carbonate Deposits





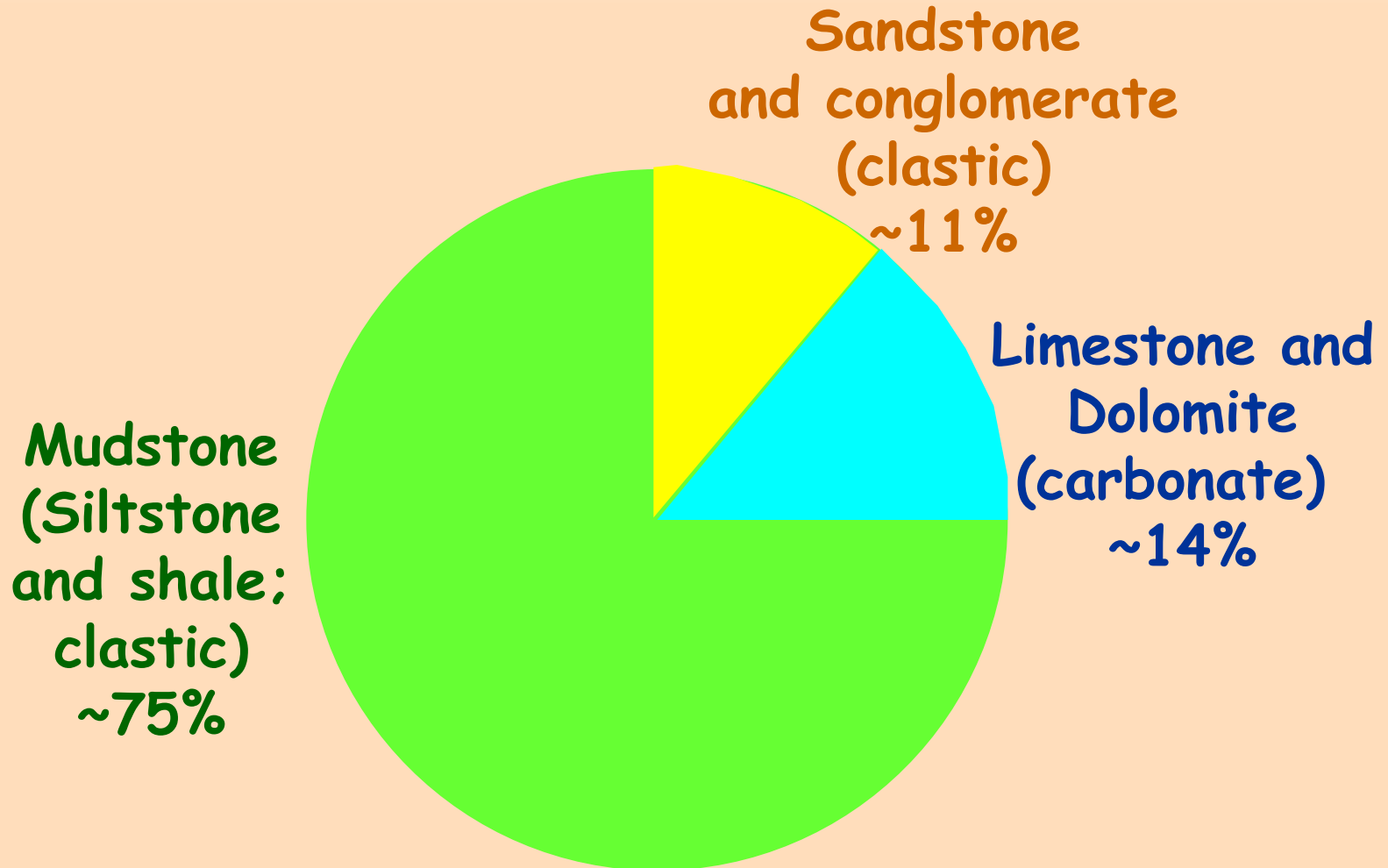
# Coal





# Sedimentary Rock Types

## Relative Abundances



# What the course is about?

## 1. Introduction and Definitions

## 2. Factors controlling the production of clastic sediments and sedimentary rocks

*(Weathering, Erosion, Transportation, Deposition and depositional environments, Diagenesis)*

## 3. Clastic Reservoir Properties

- *Sedimentary Structures*
- *The impact of clastic textures and fabrics on reservoir characterization*
- *Petrographic types of clastic reservoir rocks*
- *How clastic reservoir properties are affected by diagenesis*

## 4. Clastic Reservoir Development and Morphology

- *Clastic facies and facies analysis*
- *Clastic depositional environments*
- *The concept of sequence stratigraphy and how it is used in clastic reservoir characterization*